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June 5, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs, The Florida College System
Vice Presidents for Student Affairs, The Florida College System
District School Superintendents
District Assistant Superintendents for Instruction
District Test Administrators

FROM: Judith Bilsky, Ed.D., Executive Vice Chancellor, The Florida College System
Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor for Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Services, Division of Public Schools

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 1908 Implementation: *High School Mathematics Courses*

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify issues related to the implementation of section 1008.30(3), Florida Statutes, as revised in 2008 by Senate Bill 1908, regarding mathematics remediation. An earlier memorandum dated November 14, 2008, from Dr. Judith Bilsky and Ms. Mary Jane Tappen with the subject *Senate Bill 1908: High School Mathematics for College Success and Mathematics for College Readiness – Placement and Exit Requirements* provided information on district high school mathematics course options related to the statutory requirement that high school students be offered opportunities to remediate prior to high school graduation.

In that memorandum, districts were guided to select one of two mathematics course options to help better prepare students for college. *Mathematics for College Success*, a .5 high school elective credit course, closely corresponds to the college developmental education course, *Elementary Algebra* (MAT 0024), which is a non-college credit course and is considered remediation. *Mathematics for College Readiness*, a 1.0 high school mathematics credit course, resembles the college credit course, *Intermediate Algebra* (MAT 1033), which is not considered remediation at the college level, although it is not deemed of



sufficient college rigor to “count” as satisfying a college General Education requirement. As such, it is important to make this distinction apparent to high school students taking these courses as a means to meet college readiness standards. Please see the chart below describing the differences between these course options.

High School				Postsecondary			
Course Number	Course Title	Credit	Graduation Requirement Satisfied	Course Number	Course Title	Credit Type	Degree Requirement Satisfied
1200410	Math for College Success	0.5	Elective	MAT 0024	Elementary Algebra	Remedial “0” College Credit	Not Applied to Degree
1200700	Math for College Readiness	1.0	Mathematics	MAT 1033	Intermediate Algebra	College Credit 3.0	Elective, Applied to Degree

Mathematics for College Success prepares students for Intermediate Algebra, the entry-level college credit mathematics course that satisfies an elective requirement within a degree program. **For students successfully passing *Mathematics for College Success* with a “C” or better, including passing the statewide Basic Skills Exit Test at or above the same cut score identified by the local college for their remedial students, it is guaranteed that the student will be eligible for enrollment in MAT 1033 without further placement testing or remediation within two years of completing the course.** The Department recommends that high school students who pass *Mathematics for College Success* in the first semester of their senior year be encouraged to dual enroll in MAT 1033 during the second semester of their senior year. Passing MAT 1033 with a grade of “C” or better via dual enrollment would enable students to move directly into MAC 1105, College Algebra, once they graduate from high school and are admitted to a college within The Florida College System. *Grade point average eligibility requirements for dual enrollment may be waived for this purpose if agreed upon by the school district and college and then documented in the District Interinstitutional Articulation Agreement.*

Mathematics for College Readiness is intended to prepare students for *College Algebra*, which is a course that satisfies a mathematics general education requirement at every public postsecondary institution in Florida. There are no standard placement scores identified in State Board Rule for *College Algebra* as there are for placement in Intermediate Algebra, the first college credit mathematics course sequenced after MAT 0024. For placement into high school *Mathematics for College Readiness*, the Department recommends that students score within the 72-86 range on the College Placement Test (CPT) to ensure readiness for college level coursework, or have passed high school Algebra II with a grade of “C” or better, however, this recommendation is not binding upon school districts. Students, parents, and counselors should carefully consider individual readiness for success in this course prior to enrollment. **In order for students who successfully complete *Math for College Readiness* to be guaranteed entry into *College Algebra* without additional coursework, they will need to score at least an 86 on the CPT taken at the end of the course. Arrangements for this administration should be made between the school district and their local college.**

As high school counselors discuss course options with students, it is important to explain the differences between entry and exit expectations for *Mathematics for College Success* and *Mathematics for College*

Readiness and to inform students of which postsecondary courses they most likely will be prepared for when they get to college. Since *Mathematics for College Readiness* is aligned with a college level mathematics course in The Florida College System, it should be considered college preparatory rather than remediation. It is a mathematics course option that meets high school graduation requirements. Therefore, the high school mathematics **remediation option**, *Mathematics for College Success*, should be made available to those students who do not meet the State Board of Education defined cut score of 72 on the CPT and indicate an interest.

The Department will be issuing the memorandum regarding the statutorily required 2009-2010 District Interinstitutional Articulation Agreements (IAA) early this summer, and your Senate Bill 1908 implementation policy and practice decisions should be documented in the remediation reduction section of your IAA.

We appreciate all the work you have already done to implement this legislation and encourage continued collaboration among the districts and colleges in support of college and career readiness for all students upon high school graduation.

JB/MJT/jac

- c:
- Dr. Eric J. Smith, Commissioner, Florida Department of Education
 - Ms. Sandy Cho, Chief Strategy Officer, Office of the Commissioner
 - Dr. Frances Haithcock, Chancellor, K-12 Public Schools
 - Dr. Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor, The Florida College System (FCS)
 - Ms. Lucy Hadi, Chancellor, Division of Workforce Education
 - Dr. Cornelia Orr, Assistant Deputy Commissioner for Accountability, Research and Measurement
 - Dr. Michael Jones, Bureau Chief, Postsecondary Assessment
 - Ms. Julie Alexander, Director, Articulation and Educational Services, FCS
 - Dr. Heather Sherry, Director, Office of Articulation
 - Mr. Todd Clark, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Instruction and Innovation
 - Ms. Loretta Costin, Vice Chancellor, Division of Workforce Education
 - Ms. Holly Edenfield, Executive Director, K-12 Legislative and Public Affairs
 - High School Principals
 - High School Mathematics Liaisons