



SENATE BILL 500: Modify Advanced Math Course Enrollment.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	December 9, 2019
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn* Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-120		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2019-120 does the following:*

- *Clarifies requirements for advanced math course enrollment.*
- *Requires reporting on advanced math course enrollment.*
- *For the 2019-2020 school year only, exempts certain schools from the requirement that 7th grade students who score at the highest level be enrolled in a high school math course in 8th grade.*
- *Authorizes local boards of education to provide supplemental content enrichment to students enrolled in a high school level math course, if needed.*
- *Clarifies that schools exempted from the 8th grade math placement requirement in 2019-2020 may still offer high school math in 8th grade if they choose.*

This act became effective July 11, 2019, and applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-81.36 requires, when practicable, that local boards of education offer advanced courses in mathematics in grades three and higher. When advanced courses are offered, students who score at a level five (the current highest level) on an end-of-grade (EOG) or end-of-course (EOC) test in that student's most recent math class must be enrolled in the advanced course of the next math class the student takes. Additionally, for seventh graders, a student scoring at a level five must be enrolled in a high school level math class in eighth grade. Students cannot be removed from the advanced course unless the student's parent or guardian provides written consent.

BILL ANALYSIS: This act makes the following changes:

- Requires local boards of education to offer advanced learning opportunities in third – fifth grade, when practicable, rather than advanced courses. When advanced learning opportunities are offered, students scoring at the highest level on the math EOG or EOC must be provided advanced learning opportunities for the next year.
- Requires that parents be adequately informed that the student's advanced learning opportunity or advanced course placement was due to the student's achievement on the prior math course test before consenting to the student's removal from the placement.
- Requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), beginning December 15, 2020, to submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) on the number and demographics of students eligible for advanced math courses, and the number and demographics of eligible students who were not placed in the advanced math courses. The report must also

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Senate Bill 500

Page 2

include information on the type and format of advanced math courses provided, and feedback on implementation.

- Requires DPI to provide guidance to local boards of education on how to best develop programming and courses to ensure all impacted students receive rigorous, academically appropriate instruction in math.
- Prohibits local boards of education with schools that did not offer Math I to eighth grade students during the 2018-2019 school year from being required to offer the course to eighth grade students for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Requires each local board of education with schools that did not offer Math I to eighth grade students during the 2018-2019 school year to develop an implementation plan and submit it to the Superintendent of Public Instruction by January 15, 2020. The plan must include at least the following:
 - An explanation of staffing for eighth grade Math I courses that addresses any anticipated shortages and any expected coordination between schools or with community colleges. If the local board of education continues to find it is not practicable to offer Math I in eighth grade, the plan must include a detailed rationale for that determination.
 - The estimated increase in students enrolled in eighth grade Math I courses for the 2020-2021 school year, based on student performance over the past three years.
- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to compile the plans submitted by the local boards of education into a summary report. This report and any other recommended changes must be submitted to the JLEOC by March 15, 2020.
- Replaces the reference to "level five" with the term "highest level" for math EOGs and EOCs.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective July 11, 2019, and applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

**Kara McCraw, Staff Attorney with the Legislative Analysis Division, and Suzanne Zelenka, legal extern with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*