

2026-27 LLESD MATH PATHWAYS

LLESD will pilot the next phase of its new math pathways for the 2026-27 school year. The following FAQs provide insight into the new pathways and placement process.

Q: Why are we making changes to the math pathways?

A: Over the past year, our Math Pathways Design Team reviewed our current system and identified ways to make it clearer and more flexible for students. The pilot includes updates to course naming and curriculum coverage to better align with middle and high school expectations, while creating more opportunities for students to accelerate or take additional time within the three pathways.

Q: What are the three primary math pathways?

A: The following illustration visually describes the three pathways that are best described as: Grade-Level, 1-Year Compacted, and 2-Year Compacted.

| | 5 th Grade Supplement &/or Summer Bridge Virtual or In-Person | Sixth Grade School Year | Summer Before or Morning in Year Prior | Seventh Grade School Year | Summer Before or Morning in Year Prior | Eighth Grade School Year |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Grade-Level Pathway | | CC Math 6 | | CC Math 7 | | CC Math 8 |
| 1-Year Compacted Pathway | | CC Math 6/7A | Bridge | CC Math 7B/8 | Bridge | HS Alg 1 |
| 2-Year Compacted Pathway | Bridge Plus A | CC Math 7B/8 Bridge Plus B | | HS Alg 1 | | Geometry |

Q: Are there any other pathways?

A: LLESD’s math pathways are already more advanced than those offered in many schools and provide strong preparation for advanced math in high school. For nearly all students, one of the three pathways will provide the right level of challenge and support. In rare cases, a student who demonstrates unusually high mathematical aptitude may be recommended by a teacher or parent/guardian for additional assessment to determine whether earlier advancement is appropriate.



Q: How will students be placed into a pathway?

A: Placement recommendations will be based on multiple measures, including:

- Prior Math performance.
- End-of-Course Assessments (beginning in Grade 4).
- Spring CAASPP (state assessment) data.

Q: What if a parent/guardian disagrees with the placement recommendation?

A: Placement recommendations are made by the district using multiple measures, including classroom performance, assessment data, and experience with the preparation students typically need to succeed in each course. For most students, following the recommendation provides the best balance of challenge and support. Beginning in sixth grade, parents/guardians may request a different placement. In those cases, any additional support needed to complete work or understand concepts would be the responsibility of the family. A student's level of readiness can influence how they experience the course and the grades they earn.

Q: Can students move between pathways later?

A: Yes. One goal of the pilot is to create clearer opportunities for students to move between pathways over time if they demonstrate readiness and desire for more compaction.

Q: What does “compacting” mean?

A: Compacting means students learn all of the grade-level standards but at an accelerated pace, allowing them to move into higher-level math without skipping important content.

Q: Are Bridge courses required?

A: Bridge courses are required for students entering the two-year compacted pathway to ensure they have learned the necessary standards before moving into the next level. They are not typically required for students in the one-year compacted pathway unless a student wishes to move from the grade-level pathway into the one-year compacted pathway during sixth or seventh grade. Families interested in test-out options for Bridge Plus B for the two-year compacted pathway may contact math@llesd.org for more information.

Q: When and how will 2026–27 placement recommendations be made?

A: Students and families will receive math placement recommendations in late May or early June 2026.

Q: How will rising fifth graders learn about Supplemental Bridge Plus A?

A: 5th-grade teachers will share information at the start of fifth grade and reach out to families whose children appear to be strong candidates based on available data. When taken during 5th Grade rather than during the summer, the Bridge Plus A course is an independent, supplemental course that helps prepare eligible students for the two-year compacted pathway in middle school.

Q: What if our child is unavailable for the Summer Bridge course?

A: Summer Bridge courses are available either in person or virtually. Virtual options are self-paced and can be completed on a flexible schedule. In this first transition year, LLESD will offer some flexibility regarding assessment performance; however, students entering the two-year compacted pathway should review and understand the prerequisite concepts before beginning the course.

Questions? Ask your classroom teacher or email math@llesd.org