

Out of Level Math Committee Meeting - January 4, 2007

Mary Zarr led the Out of Level Math Committee during this session with approximately 30 attendees. Mary shared information from D211, led a panel discussion of D15 current out of level math programs, and led small group brainstorming sessions.

D211 math placement

Mary said that this year 408 students graduated from D15 into D211 that had participated in accelerated math courses, and that D211 had 423 students in their "advanced" math courses (M217 and M218). It was not clear whether all 408 students were among the 423 in D211 math classes. A handout of current out-of-level math placement showed the average percentage across the district, of students receiving services:

Grade	% Out of Level
K-2	0%
3*	8%
4*	11%
5*	16%
6	24%
7	30%
8	29%

* not currently available in every school

Panel discussion of D15 current out of level math programs

Teachers and principals from five schools (HR, PH, LL, TJ, PG) described the out-of-level math programs currently in operation in their schools.

Small Group discussion

Mary Zarr emphasized that we need to serve all kids and that rather than deciding how many kids can be served in an out-of-level math program by how many sections are available (i.e. if there are 4 sections of 4th grade, one fourth will go into out-of-level math because 1 section will be out-of-level math), that the number of kids requiring services should set the number and type of sections of out-of-level math available. For example, one year may need 2 sections of out-of-level math, whereas another may need a 3/4 split or other site-based accommodations to meet the needs of a smaller number of kids. Thomas Jefferson noted they currently do not limit class size. Mary also emphasized that the new MAP program would be helpful in differentiating not just "out-of-level" math as a whole, but also flexible grouping within a classroom (including the out-of-level classroom).

The committee broke into 5 small groups to discuss and brainstorm ideas around five areas: 1) curriculum ideas relating to acceleration, enrichment and differentiation, 2) identification matrix, 3) scheduling suggestions, 4) potential staff development and training needs, 5) grade level accommodations - K-2, 3-6, 7-8. Results from the brainstorming session will be collected for the next committee meeting.

Next Meetings:

- Jan 18, 2007 (at Winston Campus Jr. High) - to include a panel of districts offering out of level math.
- Feb 8, 2007 4pm (at Pleasant Hill)