



De-streaming Grade 9 Mathematics

What's it all about?

What is De-streaming?

Currently in Ontario, students are streamed into academic and applied courses in some secondary subjects based on ability or future pathway. De-streaming means that students will no longer be streamed into academic and applied courses in Grade 9 mathematics and will now enroll in the new Grade 9 mathematics course beginning in September 2021.

3 Goals for De-streaming

De-streaming is intended to remove barriers, to ensure all students have equal opportunities to succeed.

The goals of de-streaming are:

- 1) identify and remove discrimination to provide equity for all students;
- 2) increase teacher and staff capacity in equitable instruction, assessment, and evaluation in de-streamed classes;
- 3) increase student engagement, achievement, and well-being.

Why Move to De-streaming Grade 9 Mathematics?

Until now, Ontario is the only province in Canada that separates students into applied and academic courses in Grade 9. Over thirty years of research from around the world has revealed that streaming in early secondary school has significant negative and long-term impacts on students.

Students enrolled in Grade 9 academic math are more likely to graduate from high school and to pursue post-secondary education, while students in applied mathematics have limited choice of course options in following grades, further limiting their post-secondary options.

Many students and parents/guardians have indicated that Grade 8 is too early to make a decision that has a significant impact on a student's future. Research recommends that students younger than 15 years of age should keep options open in the early stages of secondary school.

The New Grade 9 Mathematics Course

The new course is designed to meet the needs of all students and supports future education and career options. The new Grade 9 mathematics curriculum is to be released by the Ontario Ministry of Education in the spring of 2021, and will be available to educators and parents/guardians on the ministry's Curriculum and Resources website.

Helping all Students to be Successful

Research has shown that students benefit from learning in groups of students of varied abilities and interests, in which schools have high and appropriate expectations for all students and a clear understanding that all students can be successful (OECD, 2012).

Mathematics, Grade 9 (MTH1W)

Course Description:

This course enables students to consolidate, and continue to develop, an understanding of mathematical concepts related to number sense and operations, algebra, measurement, geometry, data, probability, and financial literacy. Students will use mathematical processes, mathematical modelling, and coding to make sense of the mathematics they are learning, and to apply their understanding to culturally responsible and relevant real-world situations. Students will continue to enhance their mathematical reasoning skills, including proportional reasoning, spatial reasoning, and algebraic reasoning, as they solve problems and communicate their thinking.

Prerequisite: None

**For further information please contact your child's current school
or the school they will be attending in September.**

A full listing of schools with contact information can be found under the 'Schools' tab at:

www.bwdsb.on.ca

Additional Resources

- OECD (2012). Equity and Quality in Education: Supporting Disadvantaged Students and Schools. OECD Publishing. www.oecd-ilibrary.org/education/equity-and-quality-in-education_9789264130852-en
- Ontario Ministry of Education (2020). High-Impact Instructional Practices in Mathematics. Queen's Printer for Ontario. www.publications.gov.on.ca/CL30355