

Getting Started with High School Math Pathways

A guide for schools and districts

This resource is designed to guide educators and district leaders in their math pathways journey. Each of the four sections contains questions and suggestions to progress through the process.

1 Explore Your State Context

Establish a clearer picture of where your state is in the pathways movement and how your district fits in.

1. What is our state doing?
 - a. Where are we in the pathways movement?
 - b. When is the next standards revision?

2. Who is leading this work, and are we at the table?
 - a. Who is driving pathways work in our state?
 - b. Is anyone from our district involved? If yes, how can we connect with them? If not, how can we get involved?

3. How much flexibility do districts have in determining the content of pathways in our state?

2 Assess Your Readiness

Identify the right people to bring to the table. Clarify what your team needs to understand before moving forward.

Build a team to explore:

4. Who are our stakeholders?

5. What do we need to better understand?

6. What math do we believe students need for career and life?

7. What is our mindset around pathways? How can we shift our mindset to better serve our students?

3 Audit Your Current Context

Take a comprehensive look at what is already happening in your district.

8. Conduct an instructional snapshot. Consider:
 - a. What courses are currently offered in years 3 and 4, and who is taking them?
 - b. What do we know about our students' postsecondary plans and outcomes?
 - c. What formal or informal pathways already exist in our district?

9. Survey students and teachers.
 - a. What are students telling us about their math experience and goals?
 - b. What are teachers telling us about current courses and student needs?

10. Evaluate resources and support structures.
 - a. Do we have the teachers and expertise to support multiple pathways?
 - b. Do we have a communication and rollout strategy?

4 Design Your Pathway

Move from vision to plan.

11. What content and contexts will our pathway(s) include? What math topics, skills, and applications will students engage with?

12. What materials and resources will support instruction? What curriculum, tools, or supplementary resources will teachers use?