



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
EDUCATION ACTIVITY  
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JUL 26 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR DODEA AREA DIRECTORS

DODEA AREA DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CIA  
DODEA AREA ASSISTANT DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CIA  
DODEA DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS  
DODEA DISTRICT ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS  
DODEA DISTRICT MS/HS MATHEMATICS ISS  
DODEA HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS  
DODEA HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS  
DODEA MATHEMATICS TEACHERS, GRADES 9-12

SUBJECT: Policy to Increase High School Mathematics Graduation Requirements

The purpose of this memorandum is to announce a Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) policy change to increase the number of mathematics credits required for high school graduation from the current requirement of three credits to a requirement of four credits. Additionally, three of the four required credits must be earned from courses completed in grades 9-12. This policy change affects students entering the ninth grade in School Year (SY) 2012-2013.

A Directive-Type Memorandum will formally establish these changes to the mathematics graduation requirements and these changes shall be incorporated into a broader DoDEA graduation requirement issuance within one year.

The new policy aligns with DoDEA's goal to challenge each student to maximize his or her potential and to excel academically, socially, emotionally, and physically for life, college and career readiness. The demand for preparing students for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century requires an increase in rigorous standards for mathematics. Currently, 50 percent of DoDEA seniors do not enroll in a mathematics course and are in jeopardy of not realizing this critical goal. The new mathematics graduation policy parallels the national trend to require additional mathematics courses with rigorous content and provides assurance that students receive a challenging and comparable course of study that is required in a majority of the states. Currently, 22 states require 4 credits in mathematics, and 46 states have adopted an internationally benchmarked set of standards, the K-12 Common Core State Standards (CCSS). DoDEA plans to implement the K-12 CCSS for English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

The DoDEA high school mathematics program will provide students with the ability to meet the revised requirements. A comprehensive review of the current DoDEA high school mathematics courses and typical mathematics courses offered in high school classes across the country, as well as an examination of skills needed by 21<sup>st</sup> Century high school graduates, culminated in the introduction of new courses beginning in SY 2012-2013. Four new courses - Engineering Applications (18 week, semester course), Financial Literacy (18 week, semester course), Algebraic Modeling (36 week, full year course) and Advanced Functions (36 week, full

year course) - have been designed to build a foundation from which students can engage in higher levels of mathematics. Each high school is expected to implement, at a minimum, one or more sections for Algebraic Modeling starting in SY 2012-2013. Starting in SY 2014-2015, I expect that all courses will be available in each DoDEA high school.

Students entering grade 9 in School Year 2012-2013 shall be required to meet the following graduation requirements:

- Earn 4 credits of mathematics.
  - i. Earn 1 credit each of Algebra and Geometry.
  - ii. Earn 2 credits from courses that have a course code of 400 or above (excluding mathematics lab classes).
- Earn 3 of the required 4 units of mathematics credit toward graduation from mathematics courses taken in grades 9-12.

Please direct any questions or concerns to Ms. Diane Bishop, Mathematics Coordinator. She can be reached at (703) 588-3170 or via email at [diane.bishop@hq.dodea.edu](mailto:diane.bishop@hq.dodea.edu).



Marilee Fitzgerald  
Director