

New Fairfield High School Math Support Plan 2020-21

New Fairfield Board of Education Meeting
Tuesday, January 21, 2020

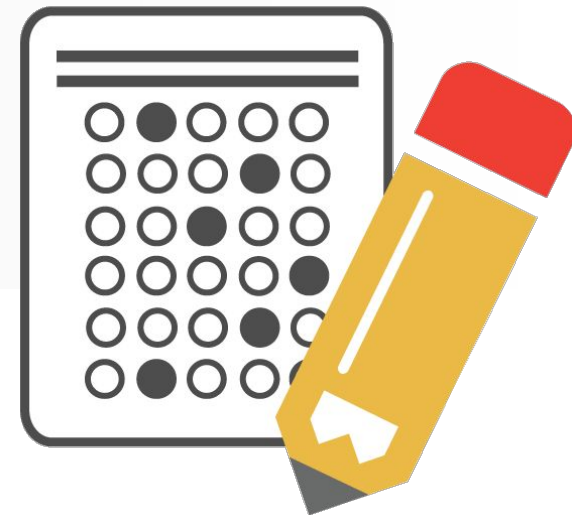


The Issue

- Only about ½ of NFHS Students are meeting State of Connecticut benchmarks
 - Class of 2020: **48%** on School Day SAT
 - Class of 2021: **45%** on PSAT
 - Class of 2022: **54%** on PSAT
 - Class of 2023: **51%** on PSAT 9
 - Class of 2024: **68%** on Grade 7 SBAC*

**Historically around 10% less on PSAT*

- Need instructional support that students will take advantage of



Structure

- **Current Math Seminar and extra help supports are**
 - Optional
 - Irregularly scheduled
 - Trying to meet multiple course concepts
- **Solution: Three discrete *Math Workshop* courses**
 - Algebra I Workshop
 - Geometry Workshop
 - Algebra II Workshop
- **Scheduled for 40 minutes, every other day**
 - Increased time from 200 min/wk to 300 min/wk
 - Approximately 16 hours of additional instruction and practice per semester

Current Schedule Model

A Day

A1: Math (80 minutes)

A2: Social Studies (80 minutes)

Rebel 33 (33 minutes)

A3: Science (80 minutes)

A4: Elective (80 minutes)

B Day

B1: English (80 minutes)

B2: Study Hall (80 minutes)

Rebel 33 (33 minutes)

B3: World Language (80 minutes)

B3: PE/Wellness (80 minutes)

Planned Schedule Model

A Day

A1: Math (80 minutes)

A2: Social Studies (80 minutes)

Rebel 33 (33 minutes)

A3: Science (80 minutes)

A4: Elective (80 minutes)

B Day

B1: English (80 minutes)

B2: Math Workshop (40 minutes)

B2: Study Hall (40 minutes)

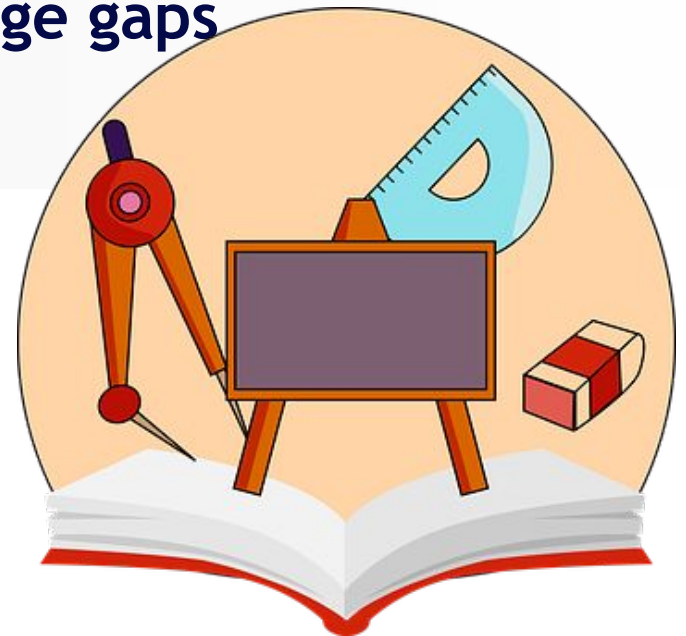
Rebel 33 (33 minutes)

B3: World Language (80 minutes)

B3: PE/Wellness (80 minutes)

Instructional Goals

- **Personalized, data-based, small group support**
 - PSAT score analysis
 - Math grades and teacher feedback
 - 15 student limit per section
- **Reinforcement of current course topics**
- **Pre-teaching upcoming material**
- **Re-teaching of prior knowledge gaps**
- **Problem-solving practice**



Placement of Students

- **Mandatory for students in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II who did not achieve benchmark**
 - PSAT for students in grades 9→ 10, 10→ 11
 - Math department test for grade 8→ 9
- **If students meet benchmark on Fall 2020 PSAT, can opt out at the semester mark**
 - Must have C+ grade in course
 - Parental approval required, Math teacher recommendation preferred
- **Students will receive elective credit for Math Workshop**
 - Applied toward overall/elective credits for graduation
 - *Does not count toward 3 credit math requirement*

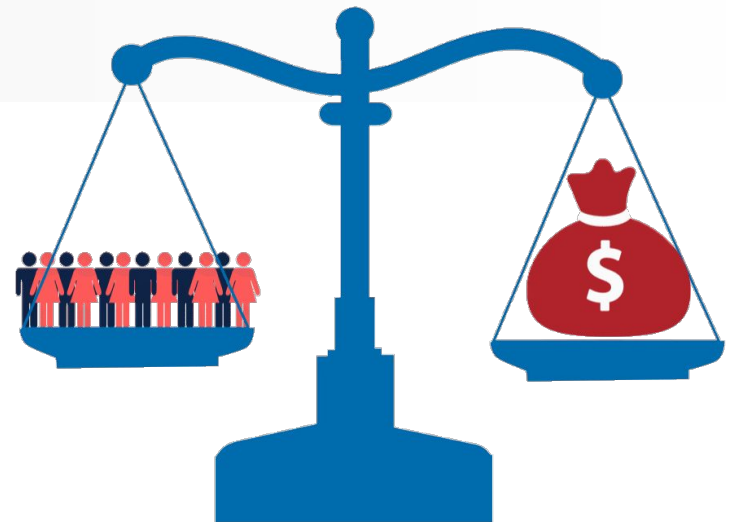
Special Education Considerations

- **Currently, Study Hall period is Directed Study for most Special Education students**
 - Amount of math support time and student goals dictated by IEP
- **Math Workshop will be time for students with disabilities to work on Math IEP goals**



Staffing and Cost/Benefit

- Addition by Subtraction
- Current Math Seminar program will be eliminated
 - Currently 1.3 FTE
 - Equal to 13 one-semester sections
- Reduction of at least 2 full-year sections of Geometry and Algebra II due to enrollment decline
 - 0.4 FTE



Other Considerations

- **Does this mean students lose study hall time?**
 - Yes. However, with Rebel 33 support available 4 times per week, we are confident that students have enough time for individual studying and extra help
- **How do you know 100% this will work?**
 - We don't. The research does not bear out that math every day leads to higher scores. However, we are not just trying to raise scores, but close gaps and create more instructional time, in addition to math every day.
- **Did you consider trying to schedule these classes for just 40 minutes per day?**
 - Yes, but this wouldn't change the bottom line of instructional time. This is a 50% increase in time that meets regularly with a cohort, enhancing small group, targeted instruction.

Other Considerations

- **If students are receiving credit, how will they be graded for a Math Workshop class?**
 - Workshop will be offered as a Weight II class, meaning that it is not calculated in weighted GPA. Students' grades will be based primarily on participation and completion of workshop activities
- **Are there any other implications to students' schedules?**
 - Potentially. Since no other courses are offered in 40-minute segments, changing electives or other courses may be more difficult for students
 - May “box out” some courses in the schedule

Questions

