



MEMO TO: School Board, Superintendent Dr. Jon Graff

FROM: Darin Doherty, Principal
North Elementary School/Curriculum Coordinator

DATE: September 9, 2026

SUBJECT: Proposal to Pilot Amplify Desmos Math and
Concepts & Connections for 9-12 Math

Proposed Saint Peter High School Mathematics Curriculum Pilot 2026–27

Purpose and Requested Action

Administration and the Saint Peter High School Math Department are proposing a full-year pilot of two high school mathematics curricula during the 2026-27 school year. The pilot is part of the district's curriculum improvement process and preparation for full implementation of Minnesota's 2022 Mathematics Standards in 2027-28.

School Board Action Requested: Approve the proposed 2026–27 High School Mathematics Curriculum Pilot, with the intent of bringing a final curriculum recommendation to the School Board in May 2027.

Curriculum Selection

During the curriculum review process, the High School Math Department reviewed multiple curriculum options before narrowing the field to two finalists:

- Amplify Desmos Math
- Concepts & Connections (Math & YOU series, Cengage School)

Rather than selecting a program based only on presentations, demonstrations, and curriculum review materials, the department is proposing a year-long classroom pilot to evaluate both programs through actual implementation.

Proposed Pilot Structure

Four high school mathematics teachers will participate in the professional learning and evaluation process.

- All four teachers will participate in professional learning for both curricula so that the entire pilot team has a common understanding of each program.
- Teachers will then be organized into two implementation teams of two:
 - Two teachers will implement Amplify Desmos Math.
 - Two teachers will implement Concepts & Connections.
- Each teacher will use only one publisher as the core curriculum during the pilot year rather than being responsible for implementing two different programs.
- Necessary supplemental materials may be used but will be documented as part of the evaluation.
- The pilot will include 415 students across 16 sections.
- Pilot courses include Geometry, Advanced Geometry, Advanced Algebra II, Algebra II A, and Algebra II B.

This parallel structure will allow both programs to be evaluated during the same school year while giving teachers sufficient time to learn and implement one curriculum with fidelity.

Pilot Cost and Funding

The district has obtained one-year pilot pricing that includes print and digital resources:

- Amplify Desmos Math: approximately \$5,255
- Concepts & Connections: approximately \$5,318
- Total proposed pilot investment: approximately \$10,573

No new or additional funding source is being requested. Pilot expenses will be absorbed within the existing Saint Peter High School budget.

These costs represent pilot-year expenses only and should not be interpreted as the cost of a full grades 9–12 adoption. Full-adoption pricing, ongoing costs, and long-term sustainability will be included in the final recommendation.

Evaluation Framework

Both programs will be evaluated using a common district rubric and evidence expectations. This provides a consistent framework for comparing two curricula with different instructional approaches.

The proposed rubric considers seven areas:

- Minnesota Mathematics Standards alignment
- Student achievement and formative data
- Teacher usability and instructional efficiency
- Print and digital balance
- Differentiation and access for diverse learners
- Quality of vendor support and professional learning
- Long-term cost and sustainability

Evidence will be collected at checkpoints throughout the year rather than relying on teacher preference at the end of the pilot. Evidence may include teacher reflections, standards and pacing reviews, student-learning evidence, classroom assessments, implementation observations, technology and access information, and available platform data.

Recommendation Process

The pilot is designed to lead to a transparent, evidence-based curriculum recommendation.

- Fall 2026: Begin classroom implementation and conduct an initial evidence review.
- Winter 2026–27: Review first-semester implementation, pacing, standards coverage, student access, and teacher usability.
- Spring 2027: Complete a final evidence review and identify any remaining information needed for the decision.
- April 2027: Each two-teacher implementation team independently completes the common rubric for the curriculum it used.
- The department then reviews rubric results alongside student-learning evidence, standards alignment, teacher experience, implementation needs, and full-adoption costs.
- The full High School Math Department discusses the evidence and develops a recommendation.
- May 2027: Administration intends to bring a recommended grades 9–12 mathematics curriculum to the School Board for consideration.

The May recommendation will include the rationale and supporting evidence, rubric results, Minnesota standards alignment, cost comparison, and proposed professional learning and implementation plan for fall 2027.