



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Notice of Intent to Apply for a Waiver for the Federal Requirement Related to Middle School Students in Advanced Mathematics Coursework Taking Grade-Based Assessments

OSSE is committed to ensuring that when a student is administered a required statewide assessment, it matches the instruction the student has received in the classroom to the greatest extent possible. In addition, OSSE believes that all students should have equitable access to higher level mathematics instruction and assessments when they are ready.

Currently, some students in Grade 7 are taking more advanced mathematics courses than what is assessed on the Grade 7 Math Assessment. For example, a number of students in Grade 7 take Algebra I. This waiver would allow these students in Grade 7 to take the Algebra I assessment rather than the Grade 7 Math Assessment.

To continue its current practice, OSSE is seeking a waiver of Section 1111(b)(2)(B)(i)(I) of the ESEA which requires that every student in Grade 7 take the state administered Grade 7 Math Assessment.

Currently, ESSA provides an exception to this requirement for higher level math for students in Grade 8. This waiver, if accepted, would allow the same exception for Grade 7.

OSSE engaged LEAs in the development and review of this proposed waiver application. OSSE's Office of Assessment presented the participation policy and exception for middle school participation in advanced mathematics end-of-course assessments publicly at [cross-sector stakeholder meetings](#) on July 27, 2017 and September 28, 2017. In early January 2018, OSSE communicated its "[Districtwide Assessments Participation and Performance Policy for the 2017-18 School Year.](#)"

Assessment results for students taking advanced mathematics will continue to be included in public reporting and accountability measures for Grade 7 and 8.

In accordance with Section 8401 of the ESEA, OSSE must solicit public comment on any proposed waiver. OSSE welcomes and encourages your comments regarding the intent to apply for this waiver. Comments may be submitted via email to OSSE.Assessment@dc.gov by **May 21, 2018**. If you wish to provide comment, please include your full name, organization (if applicable), and contact information. OSSE will review all comments and incorporate feedback into the waiver request as applicable. In addition, comments and feedback will be shared with the U.S. Department of Education alongside the waiver letter.