California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015: Supporting District Implementation
California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015
Providing tools to support school district implementation

AGENDA

• About SVCF and our education grantmaking strategy
• What is math misplacement?
• California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015 (SB 359)
• Working with school districts to support implementation
• Overview of toolkit
• Q&A
Silicon Valley Community Foundation advances innovative philanthropic solutions to challenging problems.

As the largest community foundation in the world, we engage donors and corporations from Silicon Valley, across the country and around the globe to make our region and world better for all.

Our passion for helping people and organizations achieve their philanthropic dreams has created a global philanthropic enterprise committed to the belief that possibilities start here.
SVCF Strategic Grantmaking in Education

All students will be prepared to take and successfully complete college-track high school mathematics courses.

SVCF Board directed focus on In-School and Out-of-School strategies that specifically work to close the middle school mathematics achievement gap.

Portfolio Sub-Strategies

In-School:
Increase the effectiveness of instruction during school hours.

Out-of-School:
Increase the number and effectiveness of extended learning opportunities for students.
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What is math misplacement?

• What are the consequences of math misplacement?
  • UC/CSU system
  • STEM Careers
  • Human Capital and State Workforce

• How often does it happen?
California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015 (SB 359)

- Signed into law October 5, 2015 (effective Fall 2016)
- School districts are required to adopt fair and transparent mathematics placement policies for rising 9th graders that take multiple objective measures into consideration.
- First SVCF sponsored bill
- California School Boards’ Association (CSBA) major partner in legislative advocacy.
Working with school districts…

- **District collaboratives and knowledge networks.**
  SVCCI North County Consortium – Created aligned K-8 and high school math placement protocol across multiple districts.

- **Professional development for math teachers.**
  Campbell Union High School District – Created systems and structures for integrating professional development and protocol practices to ensure students succeed in K-12 to college pipeline.

- **Identification and dissemination of best practices.**
Toolkit Overview

Addressing Math Misplacement

On October 5, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law California Senate Bill 359, a bill to address the persistent but previously little-known problem of “math misplacement.” The legislation, authored by Senator Holly J. Mitchell and sponsored by Silicon Valley Community Foundation, marked the first time SVCF has sponsored state legislation.

Math misplacement occurs when students are held back in math even though objective measures such as grades and test scores indicate they should advance to the next course. When this happens, students are frequently derailed from being able to complete all the courses they need to be competitive applicants for California colleges and universities during four years of high school. This hurts the state’s ability to close the academic achievement gap, which is critical to developing a highly-skilled, diverse and educated workforce that can keep California competitive in a global economy.

By sponsoring SB 359, SVCF led the charge to address math misplacement by making sure all California school districts adopt fair and transparent math placement policies that take multiple objective measures into consideration. Accurate placement is essential to preparing students for a college track and/or readiness for growing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Resources

- Misplaced Article
- SB 359 Fact Sheet
- A Leak in the STEM Pipeline
- Sample Board Policy - K8 and Middle Schools
- Sample Board Policy - High School and Unified
- Math Misplacement: A Joint Publication of CSBA and Silicon Valley Community Foundation

News

http://www.siliconvalleycf.org/mathmisplacement
Toolkit Resources

Getting It Right: A Practitioner’s Guide to Developing Transparent and Fair Placement Practices

Sample School Board Policies for K8, Middle Schools, High School, and Unified Districts

Coming soon… Mathematics Placement Protocols
Additional Resources

Held Back: Addressing Misplacement of 9th Grade Students in Bay Area School Math Classes by Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights (LCCR)

Time to Act: Closing the Racial Achievement Gap Policy Brief

Advocacy Adds Up: How SVCF and partners fought in the Legislature against math inequality by Heather Boerner

Questions?
Thank you!

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