

Montana Board of Regents of Higher Education
Resolution on Math Proficiency

WHEREAS, the Montana Board of Regents is committed to enhancing math proficiency, particularly as strong evidence suggests that proficiency in math at the high school level correlates with increased college preparedness, workforce readiness, and postsecondary access;

WHEREAS, 19% of all first-time freshman in the MUS do not meet math proficiency standards and, of the students taking math courses in their first year, 40% need additional support beyond that offered in a regular college-level course;

WHEREAS, only 30.7% of Montana 11th graders achieved math proficiency during the 2023-2024 Montana statewide assessment;

WHEREAS, according to the Office of Public Instruction, 78% of Montana high schools already require three units or more of mathematics to graduate; and

WHEREAS, every Montana Career Pathway, at minimum, recommends three units of math at the high school level;

WHEREAS, the MUS has taken significant steps to support students who are underprepared in math, including establishing a common math placement policy, transitioning from pre-requisite to co-requisite entry-level math courses, incentivizing campuses to enhance math attainment via performance funding, and ongoing professional development for advisors, administrators, and math faculty;

WHEREAS, there is strong evidence that increased math course taking in high school is associated with better preparedness for post-secondary education and career pathways, increased access to post-secondary education, and increased STEM enrollment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana Board of Regents commends the Montana Board of Public Education's encouragement of Montana school districts to adopt a third unit of mathematics as a high school graduation requirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Montana Board of Regents supports change to Chapter 55 accreditation standards to increase Montana's minimum high school graduation requirement from two math units to three math units,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board directs the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to collaborate with the Montana Office of Public Instruction and Montana University System campuses to identify comprehensive strategies to increase

math attainment to support Montana students in enhancing their post-secondary and career opportunities.