

Florida Mathematics Re-Design Workgroup Charter

Background

In 2018, the Florida College System launched the Florida Student Success Center in partnership with Jobs for the Future, Helios Education Foundation and the Florida College System Foundation. The role of the center is to support institutional initiatives that improve postsecondary completion rates and promote student success. Mathematics pathways redesign and content alignment are primary initiatives of the Florida Student Success Center to increase student success rates. To achieve this goal, mathematics faculty, administrators and key stakeholders were invited to participate in inter-connected workgroups to align mathematics content and pathways that best prepare students for their intended academic and career goals.

Mission, Vision and Values

The charge of the Florida Mathematics Re-Design workgroups is to explore complex issues surrounding mathematics pathways to prepare: high school students for transition into postsecondary; Florida College System students for success in gateway courses aligned to their programs; and Florida College System students for transition into four-year universities. Three inter-connected workgroups focused on these areas will collaborate to identify current challenges in mathematics pathways and develop policy and practice recommendations to improve student achievement across education systems.

These workgroups will be guided by the following values: transparency, collaboration, respect, diversity and evidence-based inquiry. Participants of the workgroups will have the opportunity to share their expertise, skills and insight with a statewide network of experts in mathematics. In return, workgroup members will receive opportunities for ongoing professional development and networking with the goal of increasing the state's understanding of mathematics alignment and informing best practices and state policy. A fourth workgroup – members at large – will contribute feedback throughout the process.

Workgroup Roles and Responsibilities

From September 2018 through June 2019, Florida Student Success Center workgroups will collaborate with workgroup chairs, subject matter experts and staff liaisons from the Florida Department of Education, Florida College System office and the Office of the Board of Governors for the State University System to identify challenges associated with mathematics, review research, catalog evidence-based practice designed for scale and develop recommendations for state and institutional policy and practice around mathematics re-design. Recognizing that overlap may exist between the workgroups, each workgroup chair will be responsible for communicating with other workgroup chairs to ensure information is regularly shared and participants are engaged to collaborate with each other when appropriate.

High School to Postsecondary Alignment

The High School to Postsecondary Alignment workgroup will:

- Examine how high school mathematics curriculum, assessments and courses align with postsecondary entrance requirements, courses and expectations.
- Build community and engage high school and postsecondary faculty in dialogue about postsecondary expectations in mathematics.
- Identify strategies that promote the right mathematics at the right time as it relates to high school and postsecondary alignment.

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Florida College System Mathematics Sequences

The FCS Mathematics Sequences workgroup will:

- Examine how mathematics course content aligns across the Florida College System and within a Florida College System institution.
- Examine algebra-based and non-algebra-based pathways for students based on programs of study as well as the re-design of course structures to maximize support for students.
- Review data on student success in mathematics pathways and explore evidence-based strategies to help students successfully navigate appropriate mathematics pathways.

Florida College System to University Alignment

The FCS to University Alignment workgroup will:

- Examine FCS curriculum alignment with university mathematics course content, particularly for students in transfer programs, as well as university admissions requirements and appropriate mathematics pathways for admissions.
- Analyze longitudinal student data on mathematics sequencing and student success rates and engage FCS and university faculty in dialogue about postsecondary and career expectations.
- Identify evidence evidence-based practices that prepare students for successful progression to an upper-division baccalaureate program.

Members At-Large

In addition to the three workgroups, the Florida Mathematics Re-Design Members At-Large represent a contingency of experienced faculty and administrators who will be engaged throughout the process through newsletter and webinar updates. The three workgroups may solicit input from the members at-large throughout the year in the collection of best practices and policy recommendations. Members at-large will be invited to participate in the one-day institute.

Duties of Workgroup Members

Workgroup members are expected to add value and contribute to the overall mission of the interconnected workgroups. Meetings will occur through virtual platforms such as conference calls and webinars. There are two anticipated in-person meetings. Workgroup members are expected to:

- Attend an in-person one-day orientation and kick-off meeting in September 2018.
- Participate and engage in monthly virtual meetings that will take place September 2018 through June 2019.
- Attend an in-person one-day institute in June 2019.
- Engage in readings, research and other related activities contributing to workgroup roles and responsibilities. Activities may require an estimated average of 6-8 hours per month and workgroup chairs will coordinate and adjust activities as appropriate.