

# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CHRONICLE

For SBCUSD Families and the SBCUSD Community

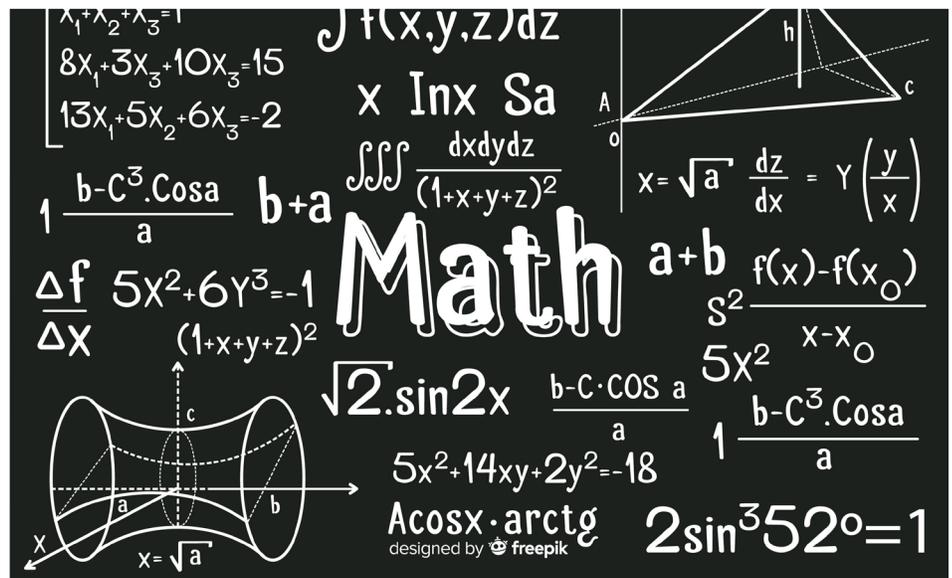
## Helping your child with math

Connecting math to future opportunities will get your child to the highest levels

Math causes more stress for students and parents than just about any other subject. Parents stress about helping their kids with their homework. Students stress about doing the work or they don't see the point in learning math they may never use.

There's enough stress in the world, so as a parent, here's a list to keep things simple:

- **Convince your child that doing well in math is about opportunities, not a job**
- **Find out your child's target math percentile**
- **Help your child to get to their target math percentile as quickly as possible**



- **Keep your child on target until at least 10th grade**

### Math creates opportunities

Many students miss out on college, career and scholarship opportunities

because they misunderstand the importance of math. The best math students usually understand that math is about creating opportunities. While they start with addition, subtraction,

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## Learn and grow with SBCUSD's Family University workshops

To support SBCUSD parents and families, the Family Engagement department offers a wide variety of workshops, covering everything from financial aid and social/emotional well-being to computers and how to use AERIES. The workshops are provided by Family Engagement staff or in collaboration with our community partners or other district

departments.

Because of current district and health guidelines, all classes and workshops are offered virtually.

For a sample list of classes and workshops, see below. For a complete list of what's currently available, including dates and times, you can visit our Family Engagement Workshop

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## Helping with math (cont.)

multiplication and division, they eventually become very good at algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus--math they may never use--because they know that math will open doors for them to colleges, scholarships and a wide variety of careers. They also understand that students who don't work at being good at math will have fewer opportunities.

As a parent, help your child to understand that math is about opportunities first and job skills second. The math students can use is less important than the math that can open the college, career and scholarship doors they would like to open later.

As a child, this may not make sense and they may say things like, "When am I ever going to use algebra?" As a parent, don't worry about convincing your child that algebra is useful. (Your child's teachers will do that.) As a parent, simply tell them that doing well in math will create some great opportunities for them they may wish they had later. Then make sure they do everything they can to earn an A in algebra. Or geometry. Or calculus.

### Know your child's target math percentile

After that, talk to your child's teacher about your child's target percentile in math. (This is the percentile associated with your child's highest college or career goal.) If your child's current percentile is at or above their target percentile, your child is good to go. No extra work is needed. However,

if your child's current percentile is below their target percentile, then you'll need to ask your child's teacher to help your child find resources they can use at home to reach it.

### Get to the target percentile as quickly as possible

To get really good at math, students need to know their target math percentile and understand that to get there, the work their teachers assign will probably not be enough. (This means that students may need to do additional math on weekends, during breaks and over the summer.) To get really good at math, students also need to understand that math is a skill that is developed through hard work, not a gift someone is born with.

As a parent, encourage your child to reach their target math percentile as quickly as possible and make sure they are doing the extra work their teacher recommends, up to 60 extra hours a year. Also, check in with your child's teacher from time to time and ask how your child is progressing toward reaching their target math percentile.

### Keep your child on target

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, there are more than 1800 jobs and your child probably knows of only a very small fraction of them. Right now, they may be 100 percent convinced they know what they want to do for the rest of the life, but chances are they will discover another career they like even more. But if that career requires a high level of math

and your child's math level is very low, it will be very, very difficult for them to all of a sudden raise their math skill to the level other students have been working toward for years.

So, as a parent, make sure your child is at or working toward their target percentile until at least 10th grade. Regardless of how much they try to convince you that math is stupid and they're never going to use it, insist that they do well in math in case they change their mind.

### Don't worry. Be happy.

If you can't help your child with their math, don't worry. The most important thing is that you know your child's target math level and that they are doing a little bit extra during the year—every year—until they reach it. Encourage them, support them and make sure that they have the right attitude and understanding about math: That math is about creating opportunities to do anything they want, to go anywhere they want, and to have others help them pay for it.

It may not be easy for your child at first, but convince them that if they get the support they need and do the extra work, it will get easier. In the end, they might actually end up loving math.

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To learn more about how you can help your child with math, contact your child's teacher or the Family Engagement Office at Family.Engagement@sbcusd.k12.ca.us or (909) 880-4057.

## Parent advisories (cont.)

3. For more information, visit the district's DELAC webpage or call (909) 891-1037.

Each school's English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) serves a similar purpose at the site level. For more information about your school's

ELAC, contact your child's school.

### Pacific Islander Parent Task Force

While technically not an advisory, the Pacific Islander Parent Task Force focuses on the needs and issues related to Pacific Islander students.

The task force meets the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is Dec. 16. For more information, visit the Pacific Islander Task Force webpage or contact Francine Blacksher at Francine.Blacksher@sbcusd.k12.ca.us.