INFORMATION

Los Angeles County Math Field Day

Information is subject to change.
ABOUT MATH FIELD DAY

The Los Angeles County Math Field Day competition began in the early 1980’s. The first decade of the competition focused primarily on upper elementary grades, later adding the middle school component.

Math Field Day is a contest to demonstrate knowledge of Mathematics through competition and celebration. The event also serves as a culmination to a year-long instructional program focused on the California Common Core State Standards for Mathematics.

Reflecting the Balanced Mathematics Instructional Program outlined in the 2005 Mathematics Framework for California Public Schools with emphasis on Common Core State Standards, students will solve problems in three categories:

1. Problem Solving (1 team task)
2. Conceptual Understanding (2 team tasks)
3. Computational/Procedural Skills (8 individual tasks)

Each of these three categories will weigh equally in determining the final team score.

Grades 4-7: Content math tasks will be focused on the Common Core State Standards for mathematics for grades four through seven.

Grade 8: Content math tasks will focus on the Common Core State Standards for grade eight. Content WILL NOT be based on the 8th grade Algebra 1 standards.

The structure of Math Field Day is as follows:

- Students in grades 4-8 may participate;
- One team for each grade level per district (a maximum of 5 teams per district);
- Four students per grade-level team (a maximum of 25 students per district);
- Teams must represent the district, not individual schools within the districts;
- Only students registered as participants or alternates will be allowed to participate;
- Each grade level team must have an adult attending;
- Adults attending must proctor/score activities throughout the day;
- There is a registration fee of $125.00 per team (four students and one adult);
- Districts registering under Plan I complete against other districts using Plan I;
- Districts registering under Plan II complete against other districts using Plan II.
- District teams cannot be separated to compete in both categories.
REGISTRATION

Student team selection is to be determined by each district, using either “Registration Plan I” or “Registration Plan II” as outlined below. Regardless of guidelines selected, please note that each team is to be representative of the district’s student population. District teams must select one plan and cannot be separated to compete in both categories.

**Registration Plan I. CST/Standards-based Criteria:**
Similar to Academic Decathlon teams, team composition must be balanced across grade point average ranges. Teams formed under this plan represent a range of mathematics California Standards Test (CST) performance levels from Spring 2012.

Each grade level team will consist of four students. Each team will have two students who scored in the proficient to advanced range from the previous school year, and two students who scored in the basic to below basic range from the previous school year. (*Example: 4th Grade Team is made up of 2 below basic/basic and 2 proficient/advanced students*)

**Registration Plan II. Multiple Criteria:**
The school site(s), under the direction from their district’s Math Field Day coordinator, curriculum director or assistant superintendent, as determined by each district, will follow district-developed guidelines for team selection. These guidelines, as in past field days, must allow for team selection that is representative of ALL students in the district.

HOW TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE COMPETITION

The Los Angeles County Office of Education holds a Math Field Day Strategies workshop in the early fall. This is a beneficial workshop for first time coaches or districts.

Veteran teacher coaches often attend these workshop year after year. During this half-day workshop, participants walk through the math field day process with our LACOE facilitators. Each participant receives a CD of the previous year’s task plus any supplemental handouts used at the workshop.

If a coach or teacher is unable to attend, the Math Field Day Strategies are made available for purchase through the office of education. Previous year’s CD’s are also available. Many schools use these CD’s as a review and/or adapt them to use as part of the district-wide competition.

Preparation for the event varies from district to district and school to school. Some possible suggestions:
- Hold afterschool practice sessions
- Form a math club
- Use test banks to create tasks
- Hold focused sessions (conceptual tasks on one day, procedural skills on another day).
DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS:

Districts must designate a person to serve as district Math Field Day Coordinator. The Coordinator will:

- Serve as the contact person;
- Distribute all materials and communications to persons involved;
- Organize the district teams;
- Ensure that team requirements are met;
- Coordinate volunteers from the district;
- Complete and return the registration form as directed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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