



HOLMDEL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

2025 - 2026 CORE COURSE PLACEMENT CRITERIA

This document includes placement information for rising 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade students, as well as waiver guidelines for those students.

Rising Grades 6, 7 & 8

English Language Arts (ELA)		
Assessment items listed in red are administered after school and require additional registration.		
<p>ELA 5 into Honors ELA 6</p> <p><u>Must earn a minimum of 7 points for automatic placement; waiver eligible at 4-5-6 points.</u></p>	<p>Spring MAP Score: 75th - 89th percentile (1 pt) 90th - 100th percentile (2 pts)</p> <p>4th Grade NJSLA ELA Score: 770 - 789 (1 pt) 790 - 850 (2 pts)</p>	<p>Marking Period 1 - 3 Average English 5: 90 - 92% (1 pt) English 5: 93 - 95% (2 pt) English 5: $\geq 96\%$ (3 pts)</p> <p>On Demand Writing Rubric Score: 5 - 6 (1 pt) Rubric Score: 7 - 8 (2 pts)</p>
<p>ELA 6 into Honors ELA 7</p> <p><u>Must earn a minimum of 7 points for automatic placement; waiver eligible at 4-5-6 points.</u></p> <p>Waivers will not be accepted for students in English 6 who do not sit for the placement exam.</p>	<p>From Honors ELA 6: Marking Period 1 - 3 Avg $\geq 86\%$</p> <p>From ELA 6: LinkIt! Benchmark C: 77 - 87% (1 pt) 88 - 100% (2 pts)</p> <p>5th Grade NJSLA ELA: 774-799 (1 pt) 800 - 850 (2 pts)</p>	<p>Marking Period 1 - 3 Average English 6: 90 - 92% (1 pt) English 6: 93 - 95% (2 pt) English 6: $\geq 96\%$ (3 pts)</p> <p>On Demand Writing Rubric Score: 5 - 6 (1 pt) Rubric Score: 7 - 8 (2 pts)</p>
<p>ELA 7 into Honors ELA 8</p> <p><u>Must earn a minimum of 7 points for automatic placement; waiver eligible at 4-5-6 points.</u></p> <p>Waivers will not be accepted for students in English 7 who do not sit for the placement exam.</p>	<p>From Honors ELA 7 Marking Period Avg 1 - 3 $\geq 86\%$</p> <p>From ELA 7 LinkIt! Benchmark C: 74th - 80th percentile (1 pt) 81st - 100th percentile (2 pts)</p> <p>6th Grade NJSLA ELA: 770-790 (1 pt) 791 - 850 (2 pts)</p>	<p>Marking Period 1 - 3 Average English 7: 90 - 92% (1 pt) English 7: 93 - 95% (2 pt) English 7: $\geq 96\%$ (3 pts)</p> <p>On Demand Writing Rubric Score: 5 - 6 (1 pt) Rubric Score: 7 - 8 (2 pts)</p>

Rising Grades 6, 7 & 8

Math		
<p style="text-align: center;">Math 5 into Honors Math 6</p> <p><u>Must earn a minimum of 7 points for automatic placement; waiver eligible at 4-5-6 points.</u></p>	<p>Spring MAP Score: 75th - 89th percentile (1 pt) 90th - 99th percentile (2 pts)</p> <p>4th Grade NJSLA Math: 773 - 795 (1 pt) 796 - 850 (2 pts)</p>	<p>Marking Period 1 - 3 Average: Math 5: 90 - 92% (1 pt) Math 5: 93 - 95% (2 pt) Math 5: $\geq 96\%$ (3 pts)</p> <p>LinkIt! Benchmark C (30 questions) 86 - 92% (1 pt) 93 - 100% (2pts)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Math 6 into Honors Math 7</p> <p><u>Must earn a minimum of 7 points for automatic placement; waiver eligible at 4-5-6 points.</u></p>	<p>From Honors Math 6: Marking Period 1 - 3 Avg $\geq 86\%$</p> <p>From Math 6: Spring MAP Score: 75th - 90th percentile (1 pt) 90th - 99th percentile (2 pts)</p> <p>5th Grade NJSLA Math: 770 - 789 (1 pt) 790 - 850 (2 pts)</p>	<p>Marking Period 1 - 3 Average: Math 6: 90 - 92% (1 pt) Math 6: 93 - 95% (2 pt) Math 6: $\geq 96\%$ (3 pts)</p> <p>LinkIt! Benchmark C (34 questions) 88 - 93% (1 pt) 93 - 100% (2pts)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Honors Math 6 into Honors Algebra I</p> <p><u>Must earn all 8 points for automatic placement; waiver eligible at 6-7 points.</u></p>	<p>Spring MAP Score: 90th - 95th percentile (1 pts) ≥ 96th percentile (2 pts)</p> <p>5th Grade NJSLA Math: 780 - 799 (1 pt) 800 - 850 (2 pts)</p>	<p>Marking Period 1 - 3 Average: Honors Math 6: 93 - 95% (1 pt) Honors Math 6: $\geq 96\%$ (2 pts)</p> <p>MAP Algebra Screener: 60th - 79th percentile (1 pt) ≥ 80th percentile (2 pts)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Math 7 into Honors Math 8</p> <p><u>Must earn a minimum of 7 points for automatic placement; waiver eligible at 4-5-6 points.</u></p>	<p>From Honors Math 7: Marking Period 1 - 3 Avg $\geq 86\%$</p> <p>From Math 7: LinkIt! Benchmark C: (35 questions) 86 - 92 % (1 pt) 93 - 100% (2 pts)</p> <p>6th Grade NJSLA Math: 769 - 787 (1 pt) 788 - 850 (2 pts)</p>	<p>Marking Period 1 - 3 Average: Math 7: 90 - 92% (1 pt) Math 7: 93 - 95% (2 pt) Math 7: $\geq 96\%$ (3 pts)</p> <p>MAP Algebra Screener: 50th - 74th percentile (1 pt) ≥ 75th percentile (2 pts)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Honors Math 7 into Honors Algebra I</p> <p><u>Must earn a minimum of 6 points for automatic placement; waiver eligible at 4-5 points.</u></p> <p><u>Math 7 students are waiver eligible with 4 points from * categories.</u></p>	<p>LinkIt! Benchmark C*: (35 questions) 88 - 93% (1 pt) 94 - 100% (2 pts)</p> <p>6th Grade NJSLA Math*: 779 - 797 (1 pt) 798 - 850 (2 pts)</p>	<p>Marking Period 1 - 3 Average: Honors Math 7: 93 - 95% (1 pt) Honors Math 7: $\geq 96\%$ (2 pts)</p> <p>MAP Algebra Screener*: 60th - 79th percentile (1 pt) ≥ 80th percentile (2 pts)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Satz Honors Algebra I into Satz Honors Geometry</p>	<p>Marking Period 1 - 3 Average: Honors Algebra I $> 86\%$</p> <p><i>Students with a final average < 73 in Honors Algebra I at Satz must retake Honors Algebra I.</i></p>	

Rising 9th Graders

All high school course placement criteria can be found in the [Holmdel High School Program of Studies](#).

Placement into 9th grade Honors and AP-level courses in English, Science, and Social Studies requires a placement assessment (registration required).

Waiver Eligibility for 9th Grade Core Classes: Students earning final averages that are within 10 points of the required prerequisite grade are eligible for a waiver. To enroll in the higher-level course, students must complete a summer waiver assignment. Students whose grades are more than 10 points below the prerequisite grade are not eligible for a waiver.

English Language Arts (ELA)	
Assessment items listed in red are administered after school and require additional registration.	
<p>ELA 8 into Honors ELA 9</p> <p>(As listed in the High School Program of Studies)</p>	<p>From Honors ELA 8: Final Avg \geq 83%</p> <hr/> <p>Automatic Placement into Honors ELA 9: Final Average: ELA 8: \geq 93% AND On Demand Writing Score: \geq 6</p> <p>Waiver Eligible into Honors ELA 9: Final Average: ELA 8: \geq 93% AND On Demand Writing Score: 4 or 5</p> <p><i>Waivers will not be accepted for students who do not sit for the placement exam</i></p>

Science	
Assessment items listed in red are administered after school and require additional registration.	
<p>Science 8 into Honors Biology</p> <p>(As listed in the High School Program of Studies)</p>	<p>Automatic Placement into Honors Biology: Final Average: 8th Grade Science: \geq 93% AND Science Placement Assessment Assessment Score: \geq 83 AND Grade 7 NJSLA ELA: Score: \geq 750 (Proficient)</p> <p>Waiver Eligible for Honors Biology: Final Average: 8th Grade Science: \geq 83% AND Science Placement Assessment Assessment Score: \geq 73 AND Grade 7 NJSLA ELA: Score: \geq 750 (Proficient)</p> <p><i>Waivers will not be accepted for students who do not sit for the placement exam</i></p>
<p>Science 8 into Biology</p> <p>(As listed in the High School Program of Studies)</p>	<p>Automatic Placement into Biology: Final Average: 8th Grade Science: \geq 83%</p> <p>Waiver Eligible for Biology: Final Average: 8th Grade Science: \geq 73%</p>
<p>Science 8 into AP Environmental Science</p> <p>(As listed in the High School Program of Studies)</p>	<p>Automatic Eligibility into AP Environmental Science: Final Average: 8th Grade Science: \geq 95% Science Placement Assessment Assessment Score: \geq 90 AND Grade 7 NJSLA ELA: Score: \geq 750 (Proficient)</p> <p>Waiver Eligible for AP Environmental Science: Final Average: 8th Grade Science: \geq 85% AND Science Placement Assessment Assessment Score: \geq 80 AND Grade 7 NJSLA ELA: Score: \geq 750 (Proficient)</p> <p><i>Waivers will not be accepted for students who do not sit for the placement exam</i></p>

Rising 9th Graders

Social Studies	
Assessment items listed in red are administered after school and require additional registration.	
<p>Social Studies 8 into Honors World Civilization</p> <p><i>(As listed in the High School Program of Studies)</i></p>	<p><u>Automatic Placement into Honors World Civilizations</u> Final Average: Honors English 8: $\geq 83\%$ or English 8 $\geq 93\%$ AND Social Studies 8 $\geq 93\%$ AND Placement Document Based Question (DBQ): Rubric Score: ≥ 4</p> <p><u>Waiver Eligible Placement into Honors World Civilizations</u> Final Average: Honors English 8: $\geq 73\%$ or English 8 $\geq 83\%$ AND Social Studies 8 $\geq 83\%$ AND Placement Document Based Question (DBQ): Rubric Score: ≥ 3</p> <p><i>Waivers will not be accepted for students who do not sit for the placement DBQ.</i></p>
<p>Social Studies 8 into AP World History</p> <p><i>(As listed in the High School Program of Studies)</i></p>	<p><u>Automatic Placement into AP World History</u> Final Average: Honors English 8: $\geq 83\%$ or English 8 $\geq 93\%$ AND Social Studies 8 $\geq 95\%$ AND Placement Document Based Question (DBQ): Rubric Score: ≥ 5</p> <p><u>Waiver Eligible Placement into AP World History</u> Final Average: Honors English 8: $\geq 83\%$ or English 8 $\geq 93\%$ AND Social Studies 8 $\geq 93\%$ AND Placement Document Based Question (DBQ): Rubric Score: ≥ 4</p> <p><i>Waivers will not be accepted for students who do not sit for the placement DBQ.</i></p>
Math	
<p>8th Grade Math into 9th Grade Options</p> <p><i>(As listed in the High School Program of Studies)</i></p>	<p><u>From Math 8:</u> Passing grade \rightarrow Algebra I* $\geq 83\% \rightarrow$ Algebra I, waiver eligible to Honors Algebra I $\geq 93\% \rightarrow$ Honors Algebra I</p> <p><u>From Honors Math 8:</u> Passing grade \rightarrow Algebra I* Final Avg: $\geq 73\% \rightarrow$ Algebra I, waiver eligible to Honors Algebra I Final Avg: $\geq 83 \rightarrow$ Honors Algebra I**</p> <p><u>From Honors Algebra I:</u> Final Avg: $< 73\% \rightarrow$ Honors Algebra I Final Avg: 73 - 82% \rightarrow Geometry, waiver eligible to Honors Geometry Final Avg: $\geq 83\% \rightarrow$ Honors Geometry**</p> <p><u>From Honors Geometry:</u> Final Avg: $< 73\% \rightarrow$ Honors Geometry Final Avg: 73 - 82% \rightarrow Algebra II with Trig., waiver eligible to Honors Algebra II with Trig. Final Avg: $\geq 83\% \rightarrow$ Honors Algebra II with Trig.</p> <p>*Any student earning lower than 73% is strongly encouraged to take Math Lab concurrently with their core math class.</p> <p>**See the 2025-26 High School Program of Studies for concurrent offerings.</p>

Continued below

WAIVER OPPORTUNITY AND REQUIREMENTS

Rising 6th, 7th, 8th Grade

- *Initial placement into an Honors course for rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders necessitates that students earn 7 or more points on our 9-point criteria scale, except placement into Honors Algebra I.*
- *Once placed in Honors, students must maintain a MP 1-3 class average of 86 or higher to remain in the Honors level at Satz. Honors students who do not earn an average of 86 or higher will need to complete waiver work to continue with Honors level coursework.*
- *Waivers for rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders will be considered if a student earns a score of 4, 5, or 6 points on the 9-point scale.*
- *Honors Algebra I utilizes an 8-point scale. Rising 7th graders must earn all 8 points for automatic placement; waivers available to students who earn 6 or 7 points. Rising 8th graders must earn at least 6 points for automatic placement; waivers are accepted at 4 or 5 points.*
- *Students with scores below the thresholds above are not eligible to waive into advanced courses.*

Rising 9th Grade

- *Waiver eligibility: When the [Program of Studies](#) lists prior year grades as the sole criterion for placement, students earning final averages that are within 10 points of the required grade are eligible for a waiver. To enroll in the higher-level course, students **must** complete a summer waiver assignment. Students whose grades are more than 10 points below the required grade are **not** eligible for a waiver.*

All Students

- *All waiver students must complete Summer Waiver Work by **July 31, 2025**, regardless of the date of the submitted waiver. Students who do not complete their Summer Waiver Work by the deadline will not have their waiver approved. They will be rostered in their recommended course.*
- *Waiver work is required **IN ADDITION TO** the regular summer assignments for courses that require them according to the [Program of Studies](#) (summer assignments are due on the first day of classes).*
- *All students, especially students who waive into a course, are strongly encouraged to attend extra help sessions during the school year.*

No waivers will be accepted after July 15, 2025.