Course Placement Guidelines
for Rising 6th Graders

2026-2027 School Year

Dear Families,

You will find below the criteria used to place your student in core classes for the 2026-2027 school year. This information will help you understand the completed course requests as you and your student prepare for 6th grade. Your student's placement is based on multiple measures to ensure the best fit for their learning needs.

Great care is taken to recommend courses that best fit your student's needs. The criteria below are based on historical data and the rigor expected for student success. Counselors may adjust placement if a different path better meets your student's needs. Parents and guardians also have the opportunity to request course changes through procedures outlined at each middle school.

Richland Two believes decisions should be made in the best interest of your student. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the School Counseling Department at your student's assigned middle school.

How Placement Decisions Are Made

Placement is determined using multiple sources of information to ensure the best fit for each student:

- MAP Growth Assessment scores (Spring administration)
- 5th-grade course grades
- SC Ready performance levels
- Gifted/Talented identification

English Language Arts

6th Grade Course	Placement Criteria
ELA 6 Honors	Gifted/Talented Identified OR meet 2 of 3: ● Spring MAP Reading 80th percentile or higher ● Grade 4 SC Ready Reading at Meets or Exceeds ● Average of 80 or above in 5th Grade ELA by the end of the 3rd nine weeks
ELA 6	All other students enrolled in 6th-grade ELA

Mathematics

Mathematics placement aligns with the district's mathematics sequence. Students are placed based on demonstrated readiness for the pace and rigor of each course level.

6th Grade Course	Placement Criteria
Accelerated Honors Math *(Students take Geometry with Statistics in 7th grade and Algebra I in 8th grade)*	Gifted/Talented or meet 2 of 3: ● Grade 5 Spring MAP Math 90th percentile or higher ● Grade 4 SC Ready Mathematics 90% or greater ● Grade 5 Math average at the end of quarters 1–3, ≥ 90 ***Note: No waivers allowed due to rigorous requirements***
Honors Math *(Students take Geometry with Statistics in 8th Grade)*	Gifted/Talented Identified OR meet 2 of 3: ● Grade 5 Spring MAP Math 80th percentile or higher ● Grade 4 SC Ready Mathematics 80% or greater ● Grade 5 Math average at the end of quarters 1–3, ≥ 80
Math 6	All other students enrolled in 6th-grade Math

Science

6th Grade Course	Placement Criteria
Science 6 Honors	Gifted/Talented Identified OR meet 2 of 3: ● Grade 5 Spring MAP Reading 80th percentile or higher ● Grade 4 SC Ready Reading at Meets or Exceeds ● Average of 85 or higher in 5th-grade Science by the end of the 3rd nine weeks
Science 6	All other students enrolled in 6th-grade Science

Social Studies

6th Grade Course	Placement Criteria
Social Studies 6 Honors	Gifted/Talented Identified OR meet 2 of 3: ● Grade 5 Spring MAP Reading 80th percentile or higher ● Grade 4 SC Ready Reading at Meets or Exceeds ● Average of 85 or higher in 5th-grade Social Studies by the end of the 3rd nine weeks
Social Studies 6	All students enrolled in 6th-grade Social Studies

Understanding MAP Growth Scores

MAP Growth is an assessment that helps schools place students in courses where they can succeed and grow. Percentiles compare your student's performance to students nationwide:

Percentile Range	What It Means
80th percentile and above	Above average readiness; eligible for Honors courses with strong grades and teacher recommendation
40th-79th percentile	On-grade level readiness; core courses recommended
25th-39th percentile	Additional support is recommended alongside core instruction
Below 25th percentile	Intensive support recommended; individualized plan developed

Note: MAP is one of several measures used for placement decisions. No single score determines placement.

Placement Appeal Process

Families may request a placement review if they believe the recommended placement does not reflect their student's readiness. To request an appeal:

1. Contact the School Counseling Department at your student's middle school
2. Provide recent grades, teacher feedback, and relevant student work
3. A school-based team will review all appeals
4. Decisions will be communicated to families promptly

Questions?

For questions about course placement, please contact the School Counseling Department at your student's assigned middle school. Counselors are available to discuss your student's individual placement and answer any questions you may have.