

District Response – August 12, 2019
SEA Proposal: Hi-Cap/Walk-To-Math
August 12, 2019

TA 8/12/2019
Lynn E. Sherry
Emily A. Green

Memorandum of Understanding

Mark Tuller

Between Shoreline School District and Shoreline Education Association

Elementary Highly Capable Math Instruction

Whereas, school districts in the state of Washington are required to provide Highly Capable instruction that is equivalent in all settings; and,

Whereas, in order to align the mathematics instruction for Highly Capable students at both the magnet and neighborhood school sites, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, Shoreline School district initiated a program that became known as "Walk To Math"; and,

Whereas, the "Walk To Math" program accelerates instruction by moving highly capable students from classrooms with same-age peers, to receive instruction with students one grade above, beginning in first grade; and,

Whereas, subsequent study of best practice in the area of mathematics instruction resulted in a re-examination of the efficacy of the "Walk To Math" program; and,

Whereas the current elementary Highly Capable model in the area of math has raised efficacy and equity concerns within the teaching and learning community in Shoreline; and,

Whereas the parties have a mutual interest in providing evidence-based instruction; and,

Whereas, the parties agreed to convene a jointly facilitated committee in the 2018-2019 school year to examine issues related to the implementation of highly capable programming; and,

Whereas, the committee recommended phasing out the "Walk To Math" program and seeking different ways to support highly capable mathematics instruction, including, but not limited to: an alternate screening and testing timeline, an alternate acceleration model, structured support for enrichment and differentiation, and the phased-in provision of a 1.0 math specialist to support math instruction at the elementary level;

Now therefore, due to timing and communication implications, the parties agree to move forward with some, but not all, of the committee's recommendations. The "Walk To Math" model will be phased out, beginning with the 2019-2020 kindergarten class, which will be provided with enrichment in math at the neighborhood school. Throughout the 2019-2020 school year, a new elementary math curriculum will be implemented and alternate acceleration and differentiation models will be examined. In the context of the 2020-2021 Middle School Reconfiguration and the development of a comprehensive curriculum to support all students at the middle school level, a recommendation will be made regarding the remainder of the committee's charge.