

June 21, 2016

Dear Grade 9 Parents and Students:

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development knows that our students need to be ready for the world beyond high school. This means having strong skills in literacy, mathematics, and career readiness. We are committed to working with school boards to provide students with educational opportunities which will prepare them to acquire these skills and for the transition after high school.

In January 2015, we introduced Nova Scotia's Action Plan for Education: *The 3 Rs: Renew, Refocus, Rebuild*. The Action Plan is responding to needs identified in mathematics and focusing on increasing student achievement. This requires changes to high school courses, including the courses required for high school graduation. These changes impact students' course selections in high school.

I am writing to you today to explain the options which will be available for Grade 11 mathematics in 2017-18 including a new **Extended Mathematics 11** course. The changes we are making in mathematics for Grade 11 will impact the choices students make in their Grade 11 course selection.

Options for Grade 11 Mathematics

Mathematics 11 (academic, 1 credit) 1 semester	Prerequisite Mathematics 10. Designed to provide students with the mathematical understanding and critical-thinking skills identified for post-secondary studies in programs that require an academic mathematics credit.
New Extended Mathematics 11 (academic, 2 credits) 2 semesters	Prerequisite Mathematics 10. Designed to provide students with more time to consolidate their mathematical understanding and to study some new concepts. This course will count as one academic mathematics credit for graduation requirements and one technology credit.
Pre-Calculus 11 (advanced, 1 credit) 1 semester	Prerequisite is Mathematics 11 or Extended Mathematics 11. Designed to provide students with the mathematical understanding and critical-thinking skills identified for post-secondary studies in programs that require the study of theoretical calculus. This course is an advanced high school mathematics course.
Mathematics at Work 11 (graduation, 1 credit) 1 semester	Prerequisite Mathematics 10 or Math at Work 10. Designed to provide students with the mathematical understanding and critical-thinking skills identified for direct entry into the workforce or for entry into programs of study that do not require academic mathematics.
Mathematics Essentials 11 (graduation, 1 credit) 1 semester	Prerequisite is any Grade 10 Mathematics course. Designed for students who either do not intend to pursue post-secondary study or plan to enter post-secondary programs that do not have any mathematics requirements. It is intended to provide students with the development of the skills and understanding required in the workplace, as well as those required for everyday life at home and in the community.

The first phase of implementation for the Extended Mathematics 11 course will begin in September, 2016, at designated high schools in each school board. **Full implementation will continue in September, 2017.**

Please be advised that as of the 2017-18 school year all Grade 11 students will have the option to take Extended Mathematics 11.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and I wish students every success in their academic endeavours.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra McKenzie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Sandra McKenzie
Deputy Minister
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development