

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
District Instructional Leaders
Principals

FROM: Kristi D. Austin, PhD
Director, Office of Assessment and Standards

DATE: May 27, 2026

RE: Advanced Placement Statistics Guidance

We recently learned about the changes to the Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics course prerequisites. After researching the updates and reviewing the course description and released resources, we have confirmed that—under the new guidelines—students can be successful in AP Statistics provided they have strong instruction and mastery of the standards in Grade 8 mathematics, Geometry with Statistics, and Algebra 1. As a result, we will remove Algebra 2 as a prerequisite for AP Statistics, **effective Fall 2026**.

Commission on Higher Education (CHE) Guidance

The Commission on Higher Education defines what qualifies as a higher-level mathematics course for four-year college entrance. The language in the [*South Carolina College Preparatory Course Prerequisite Policy*](#) reads:

“A fourth higher-level mathematics course should be taken before or during the senior year. A higher-level mathematics course is one that is intended for students who have already completed the content of Algebra 2 with Probability.”

This clarification means that AP Statistics will not meet the higher-level math requirement unless a student has first completed Algebra 2 with Probability as a prerequisite (prior to the 2026–27 school year).

Impact on Our Math Pathway

To support student flexibility and better align with the updated AP prerequisites, we are moving AP Statistics in the math pathway, alongside Reasoning in Mathematics and Applications and Modeling. (See the math pathway diagram below.)

Under this adjustment, students may take AP Statistics either before or after Algebra 2, depending on their schedule and academic goals. However, consistent with CHE guidance, AP Statistics will not count as the required fourth higher-level math effective beginning with students taking the course in the fall of 2026.

Please share this information with your school teams. Please contact Sandra Ammons at sammons@ed.sc.gov with any questions.

Updated May 2026

