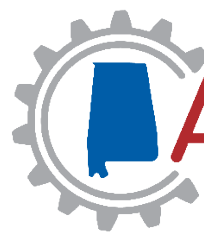


# Family Guide

# for ACAP SUCCESS



## AMSTI

Alabama Math, Science,  
and Technology Initiative

# Middle School MATH

## FAMILIES + SCHOOLS = STUDENT SUCCESS

Parents and family are vital to the success of students. This Family Guide for Student Success shares important information to help support your student as they prepare to take the new Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) statewide summative assessment. Annual statewide testing helps determine which students and schools need extra support. The ACAP will be administered to all students in grades 2-8, and the testing window will run from March 29th until April 30, 2022. You can help your child's academic growth by reinforcing classroom activities and productive study habits at home. It is only through your support and active participation in your child's education that we form a partnership for success for all the children in Alabama.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Encourage your child to finish the school year strong by completing assignments and any extra credit, studying more, receive tutoring.
- Create a distraction free study zone. Study time needs to be efficient, productive, and distraction free.
- Monitor your student's smart device usage. It is estimated that kids spend one-third of their day using their smart devices.
- Ensure your student gets plenty of sleep. Lack of sleep makes it difficult for people to retain and recall information.

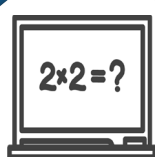
## MIDDLE SCHOOL CONTENT PRIORITIES

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn in middle school mathematics. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for the next grade level. Middle school mathematics focuses on four essential areas, all of which have equal importance:



### PROPORTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS & EQUATIONS

Your child can use unit rate to determine proportional relationships and model relationships with linear equations.



### RATIONAL NUMBERS & EQUATIONS

Your child can perform operations with rational numbers and apply understanding to expressions & linear equations.



### ANALYZE DATA, STATISTICS, & PROBABILITY

Your child can analyze data to determine populations based on samples or determine the probability an event will occur.



### GEOMETRY & MEASUREMENT

Your child can use 2D & 3D shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume or use the Pythagorean Theorem to find missing side lengths.

# ACAP Highlights

Annual statewide testing allows educators, parents, and policy makers to identify students who are struggling, which teaching strategies work, and where to direct the district and school's limited resources. Annual testing of students makes it clear that every student matters and forces all stakeholders to acknowledge achievement and opportunity gaps.

## ACAP Testing Logistics and Helpful Hints

- The test is broken into two sections: one with a calculator and one without a calculator.  
**Grade 6:** 22 questions non-calculator and 32 questions with a calculator.  
**Grade 7:** 15 questions non-calculator and 30 questions with a calculator.  
**Grade 8:** 12 questions non-calculator and 42 questions with a calculator.
- Students can use a scientific calculator on the calculator portion of the ACAP. The scientific calculator is similar to the one available for free on DESMOS ([www.desmos.com/scientific](http://www.desmos.com/scientific)). Your student needs to know how to use the calculator effectively and efficiently before taking the ACAP.
- The test has three kinds of questions: multiple choice, multiple-select, and technology-enhanced. Have your student practice the types of questions prior to taking the ACAP (<https://wbte.drccedirect.com/AL/portals/al>).
- Students are provided a digital or printed reference sheet on the ACAP. This reference sheet contains formulas, forms of equations, and a conversion chart. Make sure your student knows where to locate important information on the reference sheet prior to taking the ACAP (<https://sites.google.com/alex.state.al.us/alexevents/student-assessment-resources>).

## Math in the Midst of a Pandemic

The pandemic has highlighted the need to recognize students' social and emotional factors that might affect their academic performance. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process of developing student's self-awareness, self-management, teamwork skills, and responsible decision making. Strategies to support SEL at home:

- Be an active listener
- Help your child express their emotions by identifying their feelings
- Model managing stress, disappointment, anger, conflict resolution, and empathy.

For more information check out AMSTI's Family and Parent Playbook which can be found at [www.amsti.org](http://www.amsti.org).

## WHAT IS AMSTI?

The Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative, commonly referred to as AMSTI, is the Alabama Department of Education's initiative to improve STEM teaching & learning statewide. Its mission is to support Alabama educators and students in learning STEM by doing STEM. Check us out by scanning the QR Code.



“Assessment is the engine which drives student learning.”

## HOMESCHOOL & EXAM PREP HELP



### AMSTI

Quick links for Family Resources to do math at home.

[www.amsti.org/68-math-student-family](http://www.amsti.org/68-math-student-family)



### Khan Academy

Instructional Math Videos with Interactive Guided Practice

[www.khanacademy.com](http://www.khanacademy.com)



### Math Help!

Instructional Math Videos with Interactive Guided Practice & Self Assessment

[www.mathhelp.com](http://www.mathhelp.com)



### DESMOS

Free Scientific Calculator similar to the one on the ACAP.

[www.desmos.com/scientific](http://www.desmos.com/scientific)



### LINK to Practice

Practice for the type of questions on the ACAP.

<https://wbte.drccedirect.com/AL/portals/al>