Mathematics
Student Background Questionnaire

2007
Grade 8

DIRECTIONS

In the next two sections, you will be asked questions about yourself and your education. The choices for some questions will be written across the page as shown. Fill in the oval for the best answer.

Example 1

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
1. How often do you watch movies on TV?	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ

You should have filled in the oval below the answer that best tells how often you watch movies on TV.

The choices for some questions will be written down the page as shown. Now read Example 2 and indicate your answer.

Example 2

2. Which event would you prefer to attend?

Ⓐ basketball game

Ⓑ car show

Ⓒ concert

Ⓓ play

Make your answer mark clear and dark in the oval. If you make a mistake or want to change your answer, be sure to completely erase any unwanted marks.

Do not go past the STOP **sign at the end of each section until you are told to do so.**

If you finish before time is called, go back and check your work on that section only. Use your time carefully. Do as much as you can in each section.

SECTION 3

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 13 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet.

VB331330

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one or more ovals.**

   Ⓐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.

   Ⓑ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.

   Ⓒ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.

   Ⓓ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.

   Ⓔ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

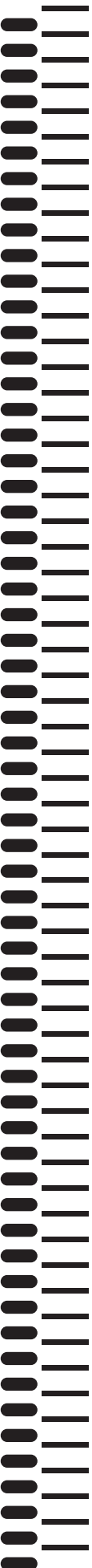VB331331

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in **one or more ovals.**

   Ⓐ White

   Ⓑ Black or African American

   Ⓒ Asian

   Ⓓ American Indian or Alaska Native

   Ⓔ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

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For the rest of the questions in this section, fill in only **one** oval for each question.

VB331333

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week?

Ⓐ Yes

Ⓑ No

Ⓒ I don't know.

VB331334

4. Does your family get any magazines regularly?

Ⓐ Yes

Ⓑ No

Ⓒ I don't know.

VB331335

5. About how many books are there in your home?

Ⓐ Few (0–10)

Ⓑ Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)

Ⓒ Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)

Ⓓ Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

VB331336

6. Is there a computer at home that you use?

Ⓐ Yes

Ⓑ No

VB331337

7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer.

Ⓐ Yes

Ⓑ No

Ⓒ I don't know.

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8. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework?

Ⓐ 5 or fewer

Ⓑ 6–10

Ⓒ 11–15

Ⓓ 16–20

Ⓔ More than 20

VB331339

9. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family?

Ⓐ Never or hardly ever

Ⓑ Once every few weeks

Ⓒ About once a week

Ⓓ Two or three times a week

Ⓔ Every day

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VB331447

10. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?

Ⓐ None

Ⓑ 1 or 2 days

Ⓒ 3 or 4 days

Ⓓ 5 to 10 days

Ⓔ More than 10 days

VB330870

11. How far in school did your mother go?

Ⓐ She did not finish high school.

Ⓑ She graduated from high school.

Ⓒ She had some education after high school.

Ⓓ She graduated from college.

Ⓔ I don't know.

VB330871

12. How far in school did your father go?

Ⓐ He did not finish high school.

Ⓑ He graduated from high school.

Ⓒ He had some education after high school.

Ⓓ He graduated from college.

Ⓔ I don't know.

VB331451

13. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?

Ⓐ Never

Ⓑ Once in a while

Ⓒ About half of the time

Ⓓ All or most of the time

STOP

This section has 11 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question.

VB543277

1. What math class are you taking this year?

Ⓐ Geometry

Ⓑ Algebra II

Ⓒ Algebra I (one-year course)

Ⓓ First year of a two-year Algebra I course

Ⓔ Second year of a two-year Algebra I course

Ⓕ Introduction to algebra or pre-algebra

Ⓖ Basic or general eighth-grade math

Ⓗ Integrated or sequential math

Ⓘ Other math class

VB543 278

2. What math class do you expect to take next year?

Ⓐ Geometry

Ⓑ Algebra II

Ⓒ Algebra I (one-year course)

Ⓓ First year of a two-year Algebra I course

Ⓔ Second year of a two-year Algebra I course

Ⓕ Introduction to algebra or pre-algebra

Ⓖ Basic or general math

Ⓗ Integrated or sequential math

Ⓘ Business or consumer math

Ⓙ Other math class

Ⓚ I don't know.

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VC180734

3. How often do you feel the following way in your math class? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day	
a. I have a clear understanding of what my teacher is asking me to do.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC180740
b. The math work is too easy.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC180742
c. The math work is boring.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC180748
d. I have done a good job on my homework.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC180750
e. I have done a good job on my classwork.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC180753
f. The math work is challenging.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC180754
g. The math work is engaging and interesting.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC180755
h. I am learning.	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	VC180757

VB525162

4. How often do you use a computer for math at school?

Ⓐ Never or hardly ever

Ⓑ Once every few weeks

Ⓒ About once a week

Ⓓ Two or three times a week

Ⓔ Every day or almost every day

VB543148

5. On a typical day, how much time do you spend doing work for math class on a computer? Include work you do in class and for homework.

Ⓐ None

Ⓑ Half an hour or less

Ⓒ About 1 hour

Ⓓ About 2 hours

Ⓔ More than 2 hours

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VB543155

6. When you are doing math for school or homework, how often do you use these **different types of computer programs**? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never or hardly ever	Once every few weeks	About once a week	Two or three times a week	Every day or almost every day	
a. A spreadsheet program for math class assignments	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543157
b. A program to practice or drill on math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543158
c. A program that presents new math lessons with problems to solve	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543160
d. The Internet to learn things for math class	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543159
e. A calculator program on the computer to solve or check problems for math class	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543161
f. A graphing program on the computer to make charts or graphs for math class	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543262
g. A statistical program to calculate patterns such as correlations or cross tabulations	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB517157
h. A word processing program to write papers for math class	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543156
i. A drawing program to work with geometric shapes for math class	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	Ⓓ	Ⓔ	VB543263

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VB517159

7. How often do you use these different types of calculators in your math class?

	Never use	Sometimes, but not often	Usually use	
a. Basic four-function (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB517160
b. Scientific (not graphing)	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB517161
c. Graphing	Ⓐ	Ⓑ	Ⓒ	VB517282

VB517158

8. When you take a math test or quiz, how often do you use a calculator?

Ⓐ Never

Ⓑ Sometimes

Ⓒ Always

VB595182

9. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?

Ⓐ Easier than other tests

Ⓑ About as hard as other tests

Ⓒ Harder than other tests

Ⓓ Much harder than other tests

VC034559

10. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?

Ⓐ Not as hard as on other tests

Ⓑ About as hard as on other tests

Ⓒ Harder than on other tests

Ⓓ Much harder than on other tests

VB595184

11. How important was it to you to do well on this test?

Ⓐ Not very important

Ⓑ Somewhat important

Ⓒ Important

Ⓓ Very important

STOP