TO: Academic Governance

FROM: Math Program

RE: Resolution: Mandatory Completion of Math Placement Exams for Incoming First Year Students

DATE: 11/27/2023

LOCATION: SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry

**RATIONALE:**

**WHEREAS** Approximately one third of incoming first-year students do not complete the Math Placement Exam; and

**WHEREAS** A third of the students that struggle in their math classes have not completed the math placement exam and may not be assigned to the appropriate course; and

**WHEREAS** The number of Undeclared students has increased significantly, and more than half of the Undeclared students have not completed the Math placement exams, making advising challenging; and

**WHEREAS** Students that are not enrolled in the appropriate math course, unnecessarily absorb more resources from the Faculty, Administration, and Math Center; and

**WHEREAS** There are additional unrealized consequences pertaining to students taking a course they might not be ready for, including but not limited to: mental health, anxiety, amount of time dedicated to a particular course; and

**WHEREAS** The effects of the Covid pandemic on math learning at all levels continues to manifest; and

**WHEREAS** Majority of colleges and universities require math placement exams for admitted students; and

**WHEREAS** It is recognized that the process to complete the math placement exam should be made as straight forward and simple as possible.

**RESOLUTION:**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that it is recommended that the College makes the math placement exams required for all incoming first-year students, including students who expect to receive transfer credit from AP exams; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the College commits adequate resources to make the administration and completion of the math placement exams operational.

BACKGROUND

The math Placements have traditionally been run through Syracuse University since as early as 2006. After the covid-19 lockdowns, we had difficulty retrieving the placement results for the summer of 2020. During the summer of 2021, we decided to outsource the math placements to Pearson for a trial cost of $7,000. The ALEKS program was used for the math placements and to help students transition from online to in class. However, after evaluating the effectiveness, it was determined that we were paying for a service that many students were not using. We were able to bring the math placements exams in house and developed the placement exams from scratch using the Qualtrics program. There were many benefits to bringing the math assessments in house such as there is no additional cost to the college to use the program, we have full control of the questions and assessments and do not need to depend on other companies or institutions, we are able to customize the assessments particular to the ESF student body.