**TENNESSEE MATHEMATICS TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION**

**High School Mathematics Contest Frequently Asked Questions**

**HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF CONTEST**

Prior to 1957 several independent (and limited) contests in high school mathematics were held in various localities in Tennessee. The Tennessee Mathematics Teachers’ Association effected a merger of these contests in 1957 and began to sponsor a contest open to all public, private, and parochial high schools in Tennessee. This association is happy to conduct a statewide contest each year as one of its major projects.

The major purposes of the contest are (1) to stimulate interest in mathematics by encouraging more students to include mathematics in their programs of study and, thereby, to raise the level of mathematics competence in Tennessee; and (2) to honor those students who are outstanding in their knowledge of mathematics through appropriate public recognition in their schools and their communities.

The contest is conducted as an academic festival where students represent their school in competition with others at a nearby Testing Center. These specially selected school representatives compete with others for preeminence in their region and in the state.

1. Q: Are calculators allowed?

A: Yes, but calculators with symbolic manipulation capabilities are not allowed (for example, NSpire CAS). Any calculator allowed on the ACT is allowed for the TMTA Math Contest. For calculator details, refer to the ACT website at <http://www.actstudent.org/> .

2. Q: Are previous exams available?

A: Previous exams can be accessed at <http://www.apsu.edu/math-contests/high-school-math-contests> .

3. Q: Does TMTA pay for trophies or other special fees for Test Centers?

A: No. TMTA provides certificates for Test Centers. If a Test Center wants to provide additional prizes or trophies, it will be the responsibility of the Test Center to pay for those items. TMTA will reimburse Test Centers for mailing and copying fees. TMTA does not pay for fees like room rental fees or equipment rental fees (including tables, chairs, projectors, etc.).

4. Q: How do I count enrollment in courses for the maximum number of students allowed to compete in a category?

A: The maximum number of students allowed to compete in a category is based on how many students are enrolled in that course during the academic year, not how many students are enrolled in all upper level courses combined. For example, the number of students allowed to compete in Statistics is based on how many students are (or were, in the case of special situations like block courses) enrolled in Statistics during the academic year. The count for Calculus and Advanced Topics is based on how many students are enrolled in calculus or courses beyond calculus (like differential equations). Note: this count includes dual-enrollment, joint-enrollment, AP, online, and other courses that lead to college credit.

5. Q: Can dual-enrolled and online students compete?

A: Yes, dual-enrolled, joint-enrolled, and online students may compete in the category associated with their course. For example, a student taking statistics as a dual-enrollment course may compete in the statistics category.

6. Q: If students are taking a course at another school or location other than their own school (like ITV courses), for which school does the student compete?

A: The student competes for their home school, that is, the school in which they are enrolled and attend their classes.

7. Q: How do you decide which exam to take if you have taken more than one math class in an academic year?

A: Each student must take the exam corresponding to the class in which they are enrolled in (or most recently enrolled in) at the time of the contest. For example, if a student takes Geometry in the fall under a block system and completes the Geometry course, then takes Algebra II in the spring, that student would compete in the Algebra II category.

8. Q: Are home school students eligible to participate in the contest?

A: Yes, home school students would register for the appropriate exam following the guidelines stated in the brochure. The home school student would list their home school association as their school of record.

9. Q: If a middle school student competes in their local middle school contest, can they also compete in the high school contest?

A: Yes.