November 11, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

Appalachian State University in Boone, NC will sponsor qualifying contests for the Algebra I and Comprehensive parts of the NCCTM State High School Mathematics Contest on Wednesday April 2, 2008. We must limit the number of participants per school to 8 for each contest.

**Rules for participation:** Currently, a student may compete in only one division and at only one test site each year. Also, a student must have been enrolled in Algebra 1 during the present academic year (2007-2008) or in the summer of 2007 to be eligible for the Algebra 1 exam. A student may compete only once in each subject division except comprehensive which may be repeated. The specific rules can be found at the website http://courses.ncssm.edu/goebel/statecon/Inform/rules.htm.

**NEW POLICY: Calculators** - Calculators and batteries will NOT be provided, students are expected to bring their own calculators. **Both contests will have the same calculator policy.**

Graphing calculators such as the TI-82, TI-83 family, TI-84 family, TI-85, and TI-86, or equivalent are permitted, but calculators that solve algebraic systems (TI-89 and TI-92) are not. This is the same policy for the Algebra 1, but we’ve eliminated the TI-89 from the comprehensive, so more questions requiring algebraic manipulations will be used.

**Exams:** The NC standard course of study will be consulted when generating questions for both the algebra 1 and comprehensive exams. The comprehensive exam may include concepts from any high school math course except Calculus.

The algebra 1 exam will consist of 30 multiple-choice and 3 short answer questions. Students will be ranked according to their scores on the multiple-choice part, and the short answer questions will ONLY be used to break ties.

The comprehensive exam will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions and 3 short answer questions. Students will be ranked according to their combined score on the multiple-choice and the short answer parts.

**Cost:** There will be a charge per student to help offset some of the contest expenses and lunch. Students who register for the contest and eat the provided lunch at the cafeteria will be charged $7.00. Students who register for the contest and **not** eat lunch at the cafeteria will be charged $3.00. A faculty sponsor who eats the provided lunch in the cafeteria will be charged $4.00.

**Times:** Registration will be between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. and the welcoming session will begin at 9:00 a.m. The contest will start about 9:45 a.m. and both parts will be completed by about 11:30 a.m. The awards ceremony will start after lunch (about 1:15) and usually ends by 2:00.
Prizes:

**Algebra 1:** Prizes or mementoes will be given to the top individuals and a trophy to the top school. Certificates will be given to the highest scorer from each school. The top 10% (up to 15 individuals) will qualify for the regional state finals on May 1, 2008 at either UNC-Asheville or UNC-Greensboro (depending on the NCCTM region in which the student’s school is located).

**Comprehensive:** Cash prizes and/or plaques will be given to the top 5 individuals and a trophy to the top school. Certificates will be given to the top scorer from each school. The top 2 scorers from the following counties: Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, Surry, Iredell, Alexander, Catawba, Burke, Caldwell, and Mitchell will automatically qualify for the state finals in addition to the next highest scorers to make a total of 7% of the participants. The state finals will be held on April 24, 2008 at the North Carolina School of Science and Math in Durham.

For more information about our contest, see our contest web site at

[http://www.mathsci.appstate.edu/Events/HighSchoolMathContest/](http://www.mathsci.appstate.edu/Events/HighSchoolMathContest/)

For more information about the state contest, see the web site at

[http://courses.ncssm.edu/goebel/statecon/state.htm](http://courses.ncssm.edu/goebel/statecon/state.htm).

To sign up for the contest, please print out and fill in the appropriate registration form(s) from the web page and mail the completed form(s) along with your payment to:

Dr. Gregory Rhoads  
Department of Mathematical Sciences  
Box 32092  
Appalachian State University  
Boone, North Carolina  28608

We are always anxious to receive feedback from you on both contests, so please email me with any questions ([rhoadsgs@appstate.edu](mailto:rhoadsgs@appstate.edu)). We appreciate your support and hope to see you on April 2.

Sincerely,

Gregory Rhoads  
ASU Mathematics Contest Coordinator