

FAQ Secondary Math Curriculum

Math: Administrators, Counselors and Teachers should encourage students to pass Algebra 1 during the regular school year because summer school has not been as successful in helping students improve Algebra skills. Freshmen who fail Algebra 1 during first semester should have a schedule adjustment (see below) for second semester. This will allow the student to receive timely intervention and may avoid the need for summer school to make up two failed semesters. Intervention is critical because weak performance in Algebra 1 will be problematic in Geometry and Algebra 2.

1. New student, below basic and is failing Algebra 1. What class is he/she enrolled in for the remainder of the semester?

Student should stay in Algebra 1 and should have math intervention class added to the schedule. Math intervention class is preferred because summer school hasn't been as successful in helping the student improve Algebra skills.

If the Algebra Academy is available, a failing Algebra 1 student could be moved to the Algebra Academy class for second semester. This student would then be in the Algebra Academy for the next year. Only 10 credits of the 15 credit class would count as math credit. If a school offers the Academy, there must be a commitment to offer this three semester sequence even if the student counts drops. (If a student fails the Academy, they can be placed in Algebra A).

Master schedule note: During the spring semester, two different Algebra Academy courses could be expected - the first of the three semester progression for those who failed first semester Algebra 1 and the last of the three semester progression for those who entered the previous spring.

Student 1 - failed Alg 1 Fall '08: Spring 09 Fall 09 Spring 10

Student 2 - failed Alg 1 Fall '09: Spring 10 Fall 10 Spring 11

2. Student earns a D- at the end of the year - does this student move on to the next level or does the student repeat the course for a better understanding of the material? Does it matter if the D- is in Algebra 1, Algebra A or B, Geometry, Algebra 2?

D- is not passing to move on from Algebra 1 to Algebra 2. It is OK to move to Algebra 2 if a D- occurs in Geometry. Partner with math teachers for placement purposes. Teachers can provide information (lists) at the end of the year. It is not recommended to drop math mid-year, even with an F in first semester.

3. 9th grade student enrolled in Algebra 2 but fails at the end of the first semester. Where would this student be placed for second semester if the Algebra 2 teacher says that the student is not ready for Algebra 2?

Review CST scores and teacher selection for second semester. If a fail occurs for second semester, place student in Algebra 1 for 10th grade then on to Algebra 2 for 11th grade. The junior highs are administering an "End of course" exam - obtain results to use as a multiple measures approach to placement. NOTE: Due to the advanced math ability, maturity and study habits needed for Algebra 2, freshmen who are interested in this course should be at the Algebra 2 Honors level. If the student cannot meet the honors level requirement, the student should be placed in Geometry rather than Algebra 2.

New question: Would the student need to take 12th grade math in order to complete the three year math requirement (completion of trig, geometry, or prob/stats)? **If you moved the student back to Algebra 1, they would have one year Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and the junior high Geometry for their three years of math. You also could put the student (9th grade) second semester in Algebra 1 if the scores from junior high look good, to strengthen for the following year. If the junior high Algebra CST and grades look average or below, start Algebra 1 sophomore year.**

4. A special education student is incorrectly enrolled in Algebra 1 for first semester (poor recommendation) and fails - where does he/she go for second semester?

Hold an IEP; make sure you document placement changes if it is recommended that the student be moved to Algebra A.

5. Will case carriers be trained in understanding the flow chart since they are responsible for placement decisions (IEP)?

The Administrator will be responsible for training case carriers.

6. A senior fails Algebra 2, first semester and credit recovery is full - what are their options?

Principals can also offer credit recovery on a Saturday to help a student make up a failed first semester. A 5th year is also available for a student with math difficult, or summer school is also available. Student would then get the diploma in August if all requirements are met.

7. Algebra A is offered for regular ed students at some schools but not at our school. If a student comes to us with Algebra A on his/her schedule, where are they placed at our school?

It is recommended that all schools offer Algebra A. The superintendent does not expect that all students will have to complete Algebra 2 as part of the three year math requirement. A review of CST scores in August is important for placement of incoming 9th grade students. A query could be utilized to help counselors review this data in a timely fashion.

8. A junior student transfers to any high school with Algebra Prep on his/her transcript - approved as math. Any issues with this?

If the previous school is accredited, we must honor the math credit already given.

9. Currently, Geometry A counts as one year of math - will this continue?

Yes. While completion of Algebra A, Algebra B and Geometry A would give the student three years of math (and meet graduation requirements), it is highly recommended that a student complete Geometry B during senior year in order to prepare the student for future math courses in college or for employment that may require this math skill.

10. When will the transcripts correctly read repeated math as an elective?

This is being discussed with technology. School personnel feel that this document must be accurate in order to correctly assess student progress toward graduation and math completion.

11. How are fifth year students addressed as math rules are changed (Algebra Prep)?

Fifth year students fall under new requirements (three year math requirement).

12. If a student gets a D first semester and an F second semester in Algebra 1, can we schedule them into Geometry and double up the second semester with BOTH Algebra and Geometry?

NO. Students need successful completion of Algebra before moving onto Geometry. This student should redo the full year of Algebra or at the least take summer school for both semesters.

Other comments:

- A high achieving math student should be encouraged to take additional math classes at any high school versus community college.*
- Students who are in Trig/Pre-cal can go on to Stats AP or Calculus AP.*
- Students enrolled in the two year programs should finish Geometry B if possible.*
- Concurrent enrollment can occur with Trip/PreCal Honors and Stats AP, or AP Stats and AP Calculus*
- In order for a regular education student to be placed into Algebra A, the student should meet a minimum of 3 out of the 4 indicators:
 - 40% or below on the district exam*
 - Grade of D or F in 8th grade Algebra (last semester or trimester)*
 - Below Basic or Far Below Basic on the 8th grade CST math section*
 - Grade of D or F in Math 7**