

Intensive Algebra I

Intensive Algebra I is a course designed to provide strategic remediation and supports students who persistently struggle in mathematics. In 2017-2018, the Intensive Algebra I course was piloted in 110 schools over 50+ districts, and additional schools implemented the course in 2018-2019. Two years of results from the Intensive Algebra I course show a positive impact on the initial success in Algebra I for students who persistently struggle in math.

Why Algebra I?

Current research shows that success in Algebra I is a key factor in both student graduation rates and college success.

Initial success in Algebra I is tied to graduating on-time.

- The California Dropout Research Project found that controlling for all other variables, students who passed Algebra 1 by the end of their freshman year increased the likelihood of graduating on-time by more than 75%. (Silver, Saunders, and Zarate)

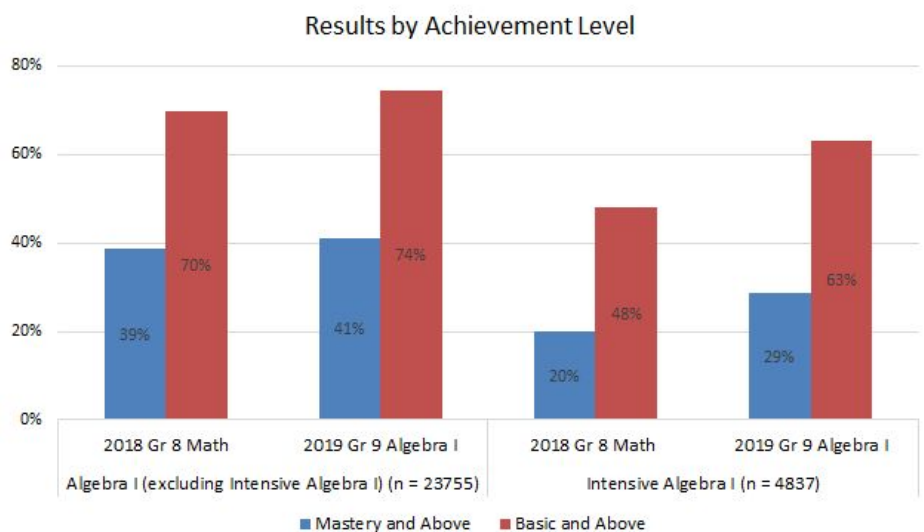
Students must be successful in Algebra I for college to even be an option.

- Mastery of algebra in particular is a critical step to enrollment and success in a college preparatory math sequence. (Snipes and Finklestein, 2015)
- Math curriculum— especially advanced courses such as algebra and geometry—has a positive effect on college graduation and on earnings later in life. (Rose and Betts, 2001)
- In 2014, 30% of Louisiana students entering college took a remedial course. Approximately 5% of those had completed a gateway course 2 years later.

After reviewing Louisiana Algebra I EOC/LEAP 2025 data prior to the Intensive Algebra I pilot year, it was determined that only **40% of 9th graders are genuinely prepared for the opportunity to be successful in college.**

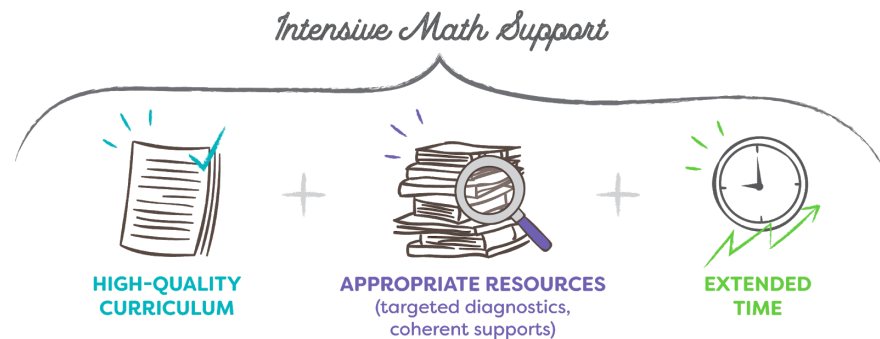
Students in Intensive Algebra I are showing significantly more growth than similar students in traditional Algebra I. For students enrolled in Intensive Algebra I, Mastery+ growth was 9% (compared to 2% in traditional Algebra I), and Basic+ growth was 15% (compared to 4.69% in traditional Algebra I).

Group	Change in % MAS+	Change in % BAS+
Algebra I	2%	5%
Intensive Algebra I	9%	15%



Intensive Algebra I Course Design

The Intensive Algebra I scope-and-sequence exposes students to aligned, prerequisite work just prior to accessing the on grade level content in Algebra I. The goal is to address specific prerequisite content just in time for the knowledge to be built upon in Algebra I.



The Intensive Algebra I course is designed to:

- Combine a high-quality Algebra I curriculum with targeted prerequisite support through extended time in math
- Address the unfinished prerequisite learning for students who scored unsatisfactory, approaching basic, or low basic on the Grade 8 LEAP 2025
- Provide 2 periods of math every day with the same teacher, totaling 90-100 minutes of math instruction each day, with 1 period of aligned, prerequisite work and then 1 period of Algebra I

Offering Intensive Algebra I

Benefits of offering an Intensive Algebra I Course:

- Proven success in supporting students who persistently struggle in math
- Positive impact on student confidence and achievement in math
- Option for students who will be classified as T9 to complete Algebra I within their freshman year

Agile Mind, Illustrative Mathematics, and Springboard offer an Intensive Algebra I course.

- Use the [PD Vendor Guide](#) for contacts on training for Intensive Algebra I
- The goal is to have this course offered in every 9th grade for students who persistently struggle in math

Questions? Contact CurriculumSupportToolbox@la.gov