

A SUGGESTED PROCESS
to determine who is ready to take
ALGEBRA I
in the
EIGHTH GRADE

FALL - SIXTH (6th) GRADE

Define criteria to start an ALGEBRA I target group of students

Identify all students

- who scored PROFICIENT (Level 3 or 4 on the performance standards)
- and who scored at or above the 75th percentile ranking on the standardized test.
- and who earned a "B" or better cumulative math grade by the end of grade five

THROUGHOUT SIXTH (6th) GRADE

Challenge the students in the Target Algebra Group to go the extra mile:

- The students must agree to put forth extra effort to work on more challenging problems
- The teachers will work more intensively with these students on problems involving variables

Suggestion: Do not, as a rule, exclude students who wish to join this group but do not fit the profile. Motivation is a strong factor in success. These students and their parents must, however, be advised that they must fit the profile by the end of the 6th grade. They must also be assured that all students will be ready to take Algebra I by graduation time.

END OF SIXTH (6th) GRADE

All students must earn a "B" or higher math grade to maintain their status in the Algebra Target Group. Students who do not meet this criterion must be counseled out of the ALGEBRA I target group.

FALL SEVENTH (7TH) GRADE: Solidify your ALGEBRA I target group

Identify all students

- who scored PROFICIENT (Level 3 or 4 on the performance standards)
- and who scored at or above the 75th percentile ranking on the standardized test.
- and who earned a "B" or better cumulative math grade by the end of grade five

Suggestion: Transfer students and their parents must be advised of the process. All students in the target group must meet the criteria

THROUGHOUT SEVENTH (7th) GRADE

All student belonging to the ALGEBRA I target group must strive to achieve mastery of the Project STARS benchmark proficiencies for grade seven.

END OF THE SEVENTH (7th) GRADE

To remain eligible for starting the ALGEBRA I course at the onset of eighth (8th) grade, students must:

- Earn a "B" or higher cumulative math grade
- And must pass the UCLA Algebra Readiness Test or a similar test approved by this department

FALL OF EIGHTH (8th) GRADE

The school must be committed to offer these students a quality ALGEBRA I course. The course must be taught by a "qualified teacher" who will devote the full period to the teaching of ALGEBRA I only.

Suggestion: You might want to consult with the local your Catholic high schools regarding the best ALGEBRA I textbook to use. Not all your feeder Catholic high schools use the same test book, however. Thus, you may want to select the textbook used by the feeder school that will serve the greatest number of your students.

END OF EIGHTH (8th) GRADE

All students must earn a "C^{plus}" or better cumulative ALGEBRA I grade on the end-of-the-year ALGEBRA I test, before moving on to GEOMETRY.

Comment:

We realize that students will be at a disadvantage to take a textbook based end-of -the-year ALGEBARA I test, if they did not use that very textbook in class. We are seeking input from the high school math departments to resolve this issue.