

Algebra 1 Course at Pride Academy

Algebra 1 is, traditionally, a high school mathematics course exploring how to use variables and numbers with mathematical symbols to solve problems. Traditionally, this course is offered to 9th graders and passing Algebra 1 and the NJSLA Algebra 1 assessment remains one of two requirements to graduate from high school. About 30% of middle school students in New Jersey attend an Algebra 1 course during their middle school years.

Identification and Eligibility

At Pride Academy, there are several indicators used to determine whether a student is eligible to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade:

- Student's math grades and overall grades in 6th and 7th grades
- 7th-grade teacher recommendations
- Student's NJSLA scores in 6th and 7th grade
- LinkIt Algebra readiness Assessment during that is administered during the student's 7th grade year

Algebra 1 Course Procedures

Once a student has qualified for Algebra 1, the student and the student's family receive a written invitation to the program. The invitation allows the student and parents to reject the offer. If accepted, the student (and family) commit to:

- Attend the Algebra 1 summer school (This is waived for students who may be enrolled in another High school readiness or enrichment course during the summer)
- Attend the accelerated Algebra 1 program which would include some foundational 8th grade standards as well as all High School - Algebra 1 standards
- Participate actively in their Algebra 1 math classes throughout their 8th grade year
- Take the NJSLA Algebra 1 assessment in place of Math Grade level 8 assessment in May of their 8th grade year.

Program Effectiveness

For the past 6 years, Algebra 1 has been offered to students at Pride Academy. Approximately 25% of 8th graders are invited to participate on a yearly basis. 100% of the students take the Algebra 1 State assessment at the end of the year, and the passing rate, (ie: students on or above grade level) has been approximately 92%. In comparison, the overall passing rate (for all high school students and all middle school students) is 13%, and 74% across all 8th graders. In other words, historically, most students at Pride that attend the Algebra 1 program pass, and they pass at a higher rate than most schools in New Jersey.

Continuum of Services:

In addition to offering Algebra 1 to rising 7th graders, Pride Academy will continue to work on developing procedures and capacity to identify Gifted and Talented scholars in English Language Arts as outlined in the Critical Policy #6171.2.

In the interim, we will continue to provide classroom-based differentiated instruction that meets enrichment needs of scholars in co-taught classes in Math and English Language Arts, in addition to the following steps:

- identify and nominate scholars for STEM and STEAM high school level enrichment programs provided by local colleges and universities such as Upward Bound and other summer opportunities;
- continue to develop and offer a STEM component to our Summer Program curriculum courses;
- continue to develop our STEM Technology co-curricular course that all students have the opportunity to participate in throughout the school year;
- support teachers in providing before school and after school enrichment opportunities for those identified by multiple measures such as Standardized tests, Report Card grades, teacher recommendations and referrals for enrollment in academically advanced courses.

Identification of Eligible Scholars:

Identification of scholars eligible for Gifted and Talented type programs would involve at the very least triangulation of multiple qualitative and quantitative measures that may include but not be limited to the following:

- Track record of Standardized testing results
- Track record of LinkIt Benchmark testing results
- Track record of teacher generated student trimester Report Card information (grades and commentary)
- Teacher recommendations
- Anecdotal information provided by other influential adults such as mentors and coaches