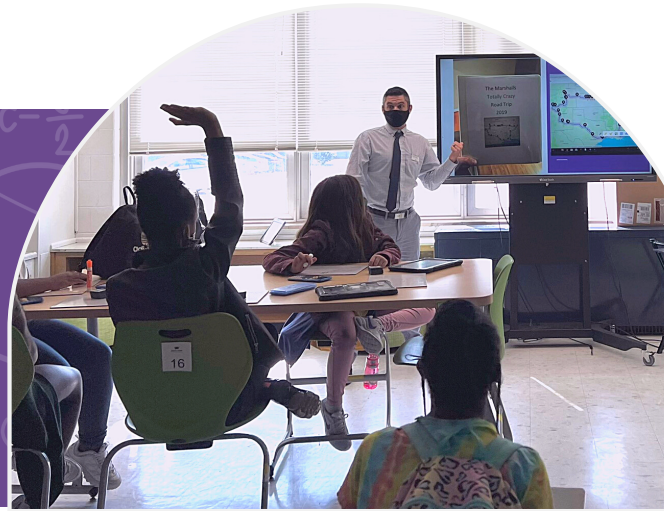
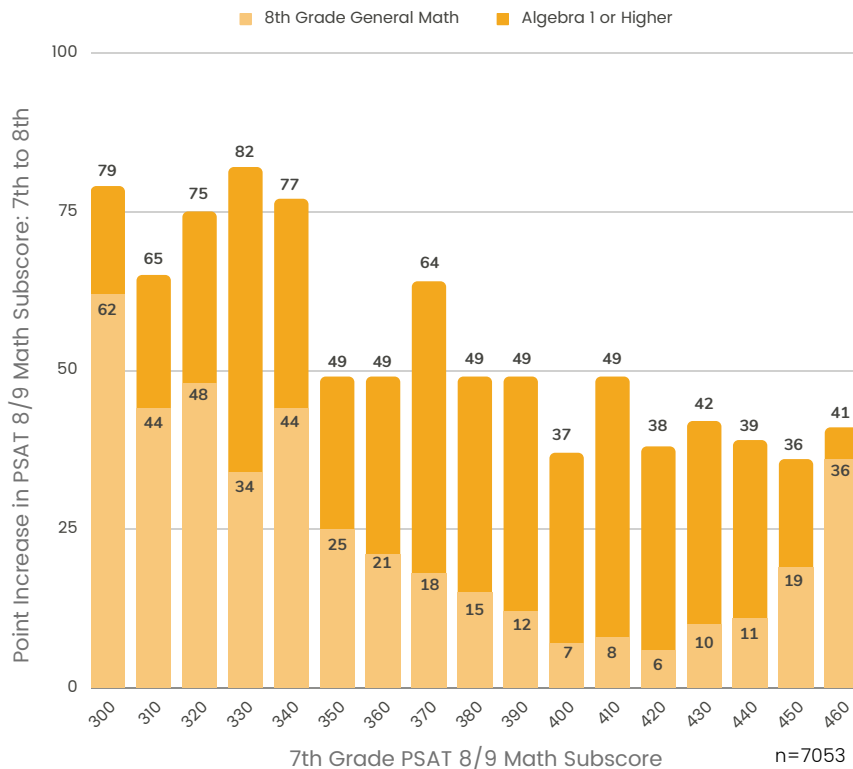


ALGEBRA IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Should you offer Algebra 1 in middle school and, if so, how do you determine which students should take it?



For the past five years AdvanceKentucky has worked with middle schools across the state to increase student exposure to Algebra. The graph below reveals how course-taking patterns impact the growth students see from seventh to eighth grade.



AT A GLANCE

- As baseline 7th grade PSAT 8/9 scores approach 430* the gains made by students enrolled in 8th grade general math diminish. This suggests the students most capable of being at benchmark were less likely to demonstrate new learning.
- Data suggests that 72% of all students in middle school see significantly higher math scores in 8th grade when they enroll in Algebra 1 or higher.
- Further, a third more students represented by this data would have had a higher likelihood of meeting benchmark had they been enrolled in Algebra 1 or higher. **

*430 is the math benchmark set by College Board for 8th grade students to be on track for college readiness in math by the time they graduate high school.

** 2,307 of 7,053 students, or 32.7%, were enrolled in eighth grade general math with baseline 7th grade PSAT 8/9 scores between 370 and 420.

RELATED ONLINE RESOURCES FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

A Leak in the STEM Pipeline: Taking Algebra Early
November, 2018 US Department of Education

Advanced Math in Eighth Grade
March 18, 2013 Brookings Institute

In 8th Grade, Separate Algebra is Unequal Algebra for Black Students
June 11, 2020 Edweek.org



Access to Algebra's mission is to increase the number of students prepared for advanced STEM coursework in high school by increasing participation and success in 8th grade Algebra and other accelerated math courses, especially for students traditionally underrepresented in advanced courses.

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