

## College-Ready Math Initiative

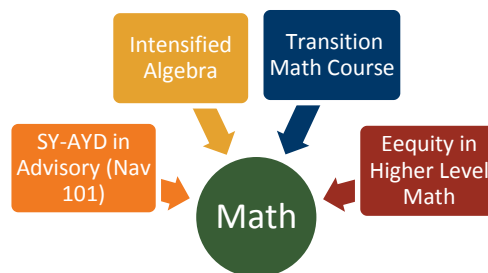
College Spark Washington is investing \$12 million over seven years in a new College-Ready Math Initiative to help low-income students graduate from high school with strong math skills and avoid remediation in college. The Initiative includes a variety of evidence-based strategies and programs designed to help students improve their scores on the 11<sup>th</sup> grade Smarter Balanced Assessment, which measures Common Core State Standards, and provide high school seniors with a 'last chance' opportunity to develop the math skills they need to avoid remediation in college or earn college-level math credits while in high school.

### The Need

- \* The majority of Washington's high school graduates are required to take remedial math in college. This increases the time it takes students to move toward a college degree, requires students to use valuable financial aid on course work for which they can earn no college-level credits, and dramatically reduces the chance that a student will earn a degree: fewer than half of the students who take remedial math go on to graduate from college.
- \* In 2015, students will begin taking the 11<sup>th</sup> grade Smarter Balanced Assessment; experts predicted that 70% of students will score below the college-ready level on the math section of this test.

### The Programs

- \* **School-Year Academic Youth Development (SY-AYD)** – A program designed to improve student performance in STEM courses by helping them develop a growth mindset and become more engaged and motivated. SY-AYD curriculum is typically delivered during 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> grade advisory (often referred to as Navigation 101 in Washington).



- \* **Intensified Algebra** – An algebra program for students who are 1-3 years behind in math. It combines a growth mindset curriculum with pre-Algebra and Algebra I course content.
- \* **Senior Year Transition Courses** - Math and English Language Arts courses for seniors who score below the college-ready level on the Smarter Balanced Assessment in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who pass the course will be considered college-ready by the majority of colleges in Washington and permitted to enroll in college-level math courses without additional placement testing.
- \* **Equity in Higher Level Math** – Research consistently shows that students who take rigorous math courses during their senior year do better in colleges than other students. Studies also show that many of the low-income students and students of color who could succeed in such courses are missing from these classes. A variety of strategies will be funded to increase access to and success in higher level math courses.

## Program Highlights

### SY-AYD and Intensified Algebra

- Growth mindset programs developed by the UT Dana Center at the University of Texas-Austin and administered by Agile Mind.
- Both programs have demonstrated improvements in students' math and science test scores, GPA, attendance, and measures of student behavior (such as suspensions and expulsions).
- Over a seven-year period, 60 schools will receive four-year grants to implement SY-AYD and/or Intensified Algebra.
- Schools with strong advisory programs will be given priority for SY-AYD grants.

SY-AYD	Intensified Algebra
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to 54 growth mindset lessons delivered during 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, or 10<sup>th</sup> grade advisory</li><li>• 60 hours of blended in-person and on-line training for teachers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A double-block class that integrates growth-mindset and Algebra instruction</li><li>• Enables students with low math scores to pass Algebra I at the same rate as students with much higher scores.</li><li>• 20 schools in Washington are currently implementing Intensified Algebra</li></ul>

### Senior Year Math and English Language Arts Transition Course

- A course developed by high school teachers and college faculty and coordinated by the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).
- Training provided in coordination with Washington's Education Service Districts.
- Students who pass the course will be considered college-ready and eligible to enroll in college-level math at all of Washington's community colleges and many four-year colleges.
- Initiative funding will support 300 high schools in implementing these transition courses.

### Equity in Higher Level Math

- Additional grant opportunity for schools receiving College Spark funding to implement SY-AYD or Intensified Algebra. These additional grant funds may be used to support strategies that increase access to and success in rigorous math courses such as Advanced Placement. Schools will be encouraged to use grant funds to work with Equal Opportunity Schools (eoschools.org) to identify and close AP/IB participation and achievement gaps.

### Initiative Highlights

- \$1.7 million per year in grant funds support the Initiative.
- Focus on school districts with high percentages of student living in poverty as measured by participation in the Free and Reduced Lunch program.
- Schools implementing SY-AYD or Intensified Algebra will be given priority in applying for Senior Year Transition Course grants.

**For information, please contact:**

<b>College-Ready Math Initiative</b>	Heather Gingerich, 206.461.5326, <a href="mailto:heather@collegespark.org">heather@collegespark.org</a>
<b>SY-AYD or IA Program Info</b>	Denise Hobbs, 505.255.2219, <a href="mailto:dhobbs@agilemind.com">dhobbs@agilemind.com</a> Additional info also available at: <a href="http://www.agilemind.com/evaluate2/wa/spark/">http://www.agilemind.com/evaluate2/wa/spark/</a>
<b>Grants for SY-AYD or IA</b>	Danise Ackelson, 360.725.4967, <a href="mailto:danise.ackelson@kl2.wa.us">danise.ackelson@kl2.wa.us</a>
<b>Senior Year Transition Course</b>	Bill Moore, 360.704.4346, <a href="mailto:bmoore@sbctc.edu">bmoore@sbctc.edu</a>
<b>Equal Opportunity Schools</b>	Luke Justice, 312.343.1992, <a href="mailto:luke@eoschools.org">luke@eoschools.org</a>
<b>Washington STEM</b>	Sandi Everlove, (206) 658-4332, <a href="mailto:sandi@washingtonstem.org">sandi@washingtonstem.org</a>