

Nothing is definite and everything will be taken as a case by case basis.

Q: What if I fail the Keystone after taking Algebra I 8?

A: If you barely passed Algebra I with a C and also failed the Keystone, we may recommend that you retake the class. This will depend strongly on how successful you were in Algebra I and will be combined with other pieces of data.

If you fail the Keystone, you will have to retake the test and pass it by the end of your junior year. The challenge is that you will become further and further removed from learning the content. You may be offered remediation to help with the test, but if you begin to lose some of your understanding from the original course, that may not be enough. Getting an outside tutor or taking an online class may be an option.

It may be best to retake Algebra I. If you choose or are told to retake Algebra I, you will be scheduled for Algebra I 9. This class will consist of many students from your grade taking Algebra I. You will still have a normal high school schedule and a high school teacher. Algebra I is the grade-level math class in 9th grade. Your transcript will not show that you repeated Algebra I.

Q: How will PSSA scores affect me?

A: The PSSAs are new and we are still adjusting to their added rigor. If you did very poorly on the PSSAs and they indicate that you are perhaps below grade level, they could affect your placement. PSSA scores will also be on your permanent transcripts. You may be pulled from electives or other classes to participate in remediation (for either PSSAs or keystones).

Q: How will Algebra I help prepare me for the PSSA?

A: The PSSA is challenging to prepare you for when you are in Algebra I, because our focus is the Algebra I content and standards. It is possible that we may have a class added into your schedule at some point throughout the year (it will most likely not meet daily). If this class conflicts with another class, we will work with that teacher and you to help you still have access to the content.

You will also be given some practice resources to use independently. You will have access to the Big Ideas book that aligns with the 8th grade standards. You will also have an outline of which sections have examples and practice for the content that may not be addressed in the Algebra I curriculum.



Q: What is some advice for passing the Keystone?

A:

- Keep up with homework. This allows you to have independent practice. Homework is not only a great source of practice; it also allows you to reveal where you may have misconceptions.
- Be very careful! Take your time on the Keystone, show your work, and double check your work and answers. There is no time limit for the Keystone, so take as much time as you need!
- Being organized while taking the test will help you break down and work through a problem and will also help you avoid careless mistakes. It is very helpful to use scratch paper.
- Ask Questions! Please please please get help as soon as you feel you have a misunderstanding. If something doesn't make sense, ask questions as soon as possible. Chances are, a few of the other students in the room are wondering the same thing. If you fix your misconception or misunderstanding right away, it will not build to form a bigger problem. Algebra builds on top of other skills, so chances are if there is something you are struggling with, it won't go away.
- Relax! Try your best to stay calm and ask yourself questions.