



ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Instructional Services

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Gina Fonseca
Director for Instructional Services

MEMORANDUM

TO: High School Assistant Principals
CC: High School Principals
FROM: Gina Fonseca, Director for Secondary Instructional Services
DATE: April 7, 2021
SUBJECT: Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program 2021

Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program 2021

The Department of Instructional Services would normally be making plans for the Summer Algebra 1 Program, however, this year the program will be structured a bit different than usual. Since the purpose of the program is to provide timely intensive test preparation and remediation for students who had passing grades in either course but did not earn a passing score on the Algebra 1 End-of-Course (EOC) assessment, the scores must first be returned to properly identify those students. Per the State of Florida Department of Education Emergency Order [DOE ORDER NO. 2021-E0-01](#), the testing EOC testing window for the spring, [per the 2020-2021 Statewide Assessment Schedule](#), has been extended to June 11, 2021. While this will allow students additional instructional time and give schools more flexibility in their testing schedules, it will also delay the reporting results, making them available no later than July 31, 2021. This date does not provide the needed time to properly identify students for an Algebra 1 program during the summer or prior to the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. Therefore, the Department of Instructional Services is cancelling the Summer Algebra 1 Program and is planning a Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program for 2021.

The Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program for 2021 will take place on the campus of each high school. The intent of the program is to target students who scored a mid to high level 2 on the Spring 2021 Algebra 1 EOC Assessment or students who received As, Bs and Cs in the Algebra 1 course, but did not pass the state Algebra 1 EOC Assessment. In addition, we are expanding the program to include students who scored a mid to high level 2 on the Spring 2021 Geometry EOC Assessment or students who received As, Bs and Cs in the Geometry course, but did not pass the state Geometry EOC Assessment. The focus of this program is to prepare students to retake the assessment during the first fall administration window – September 13 – October 1, 2021.

| End-of-Course Assessments | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Dates | Assessment |
| September 13–October 1, 2021 | Algebra 1, Biology 1, Civics, Geometry & U.S. History |
| November 29–December 17, 2021 | |
| May 2–27, 2022 | |
| July 11–22, 2022 | |

The program will be expanded to accommodate current Geometry students who completed Algebra 1 during the 2019-2020 school year and did not take the state administered Algebra 1 EOC due to its cancellation. This particular group of students have a greater need of passing the Geometry EOC because it also satisfies the Algebra 1 EOC graduation requirement (see [Rule 6A-1.09422](#)).

Each high school will have flexibility in the design of their program to best meet the needs of their targeted student population. Each high school will submit a proposal to Gina Fonseca (please copy Donna Soncrant, Secondary Math Curriculum Specialist), for review, approval and funding by June 30, 2021. Each school should include the following detailed information:

- name of Assistant Principal assigned to oversee the program,
- content – Algebra 1 and/or Geometry
- days and time of the program (with number of student hours - specifics required for each content if applicable),
- proposed number of teachers (number of teachers should be based on structure of program and number of students attending maintaining a ratio of students to teachers to 20:1), and
- transportation needs, if any.

We anticipate there will be questions, please read the following Questions and Answers regarding the program and follow-up with action items.

Questions and Answers for the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program 2021:

1. What are the dates and times of the program?

The specific dates and the times of the program will be determined by each high school to best meet the needs of their students, however, the program must be completed by September 30, 2021.

It is suggested that schools begin their programs soon after the school year begins to maximize instructional hours.

2. What are the dates of the scheduled fall EOC administration?

The first fall EOC testing administration window opens September 13, 2021 and closes October 1, 2021. Schools may test students anytime within this window.

3. Is there any cost for students?

No.

4. Where will the Summer Algebra 1/Geometry Program be held?

Each high school will host a teacher-directed program. Schools have the option of meeting in person or virtually or a combination of both.

The intention of this program is for students to receive focused instruction from a teacher, not simply general support from a virtual program.

5. Who is the district contact?

Donna Soncrant, Secondary Math Specialist, is the primary contact for this program (ex: 17698), however Kim Wuellner, Math Coordinator, (ex: 17539) and Gina Fonseca, Secondary Instructional Services Director (ex. 17626) are additional contacts.

6. Who should attend?

The Algebra 1 and Geometry EOC score reports for the spring 2021 administration are supposed to become available in July, and no later than July 31, 2021, but there is no specific, official release date.

The Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program is *not* mandatory, but it is highly recommended for all high school and middle school students who did not pass the Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC and have “passing” grades in the course. Since the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program will have limited days of instruction for test preparation and remediation, it is best to target specific students.

First priority should be given to rising seniors who have not yet met the Algebra 1 graduation requirement.

Students who did not have passing grades in Algebra 1, should be remediated through LAM 1 in the fall or enrolled in SJVS APEX Summer School Lab which is tentatively scheduled to take place from June 21 – July 14, 2021 (SJVS Teachers available for student support 8am-8pm, Monday-Friday). Please contact Lindsey Page (lindsey.page@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or Ryan Erskine (ryan.erskine@stjohns.k12.fl.us) for additional information.

7. What is the benefit of the students who attend the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program?

- Students who attend the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program at their high school will have the benefit of teacher led instruction and test preparation leading up to the fall EOC testing window.
- A student earning a passing grade on the FSA Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC (level 3 or higher) will have their FSA Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC grade averaged as 30% of their final Algebra 1/Algebra 1 Honors or Geometry/Geometry Honors grade and the new grade will be entered on their transcript.
- **IF** a school chooses to structure their Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program to qualify as a Credit Recovery Course program (MUST meet the parameters detailed in #9), then any student originally enrolled in Algebra 1 or Geometry during the 2020-2021 school year and successfully completes the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program will have the opportunity to earn a 0.5 elective credit *and* grade forgiveness.

To earn the elective credit students must successfully complete the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program. Successful participation is explained in #10 and 12. If a student qualifies for grade forgiveness, earns the elective credit *and* a passing score on the FSA Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC, they are eligible for grade forgiveness.

8. Can students meet the Algebra 1 graduation requirement without taking the FSA Algebra 1 EOC?

Yes, students may use a concordant or comparative score to meet the graduation requirement as soon as it is earned.

| Algebra 1 EOC (FSA or NGSSS) | |
|---|-----|
| Available for all students who entered grade 9 in 2010 – 11 and beyond: | |
| PSAT/NMSQ | 430 |
| SAT Math | 420 |
| ACT Math | 16 |
| FSA Geometry EOC | 499 |

(Concordant or comparative scores as specified in [Rule 6A-1.09422](#), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.))

9. What is the definition of a Credit Recovery Course?

Credit Recovery courses are 0.5 elective credit courses with specific content requirements defined by the Florida Standards. Students enrolled in a Credit Recovery Course must have previously attempted the successful completion of the corresponding course and/or FSA EOC (requirement waived for 2019-2020 school year). It is important to note that Credit Recovery courses are not bound by Section 1003.436(1)(a), F.S., which requires a minimum of 135 hours of instruction in a designed course of study.

If schools are interested in designing their Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program as a Credit Recovery Course, schools must design the program to meet or exceed 45 documented student hours. This is consistent with the student hours required for the prior Summer Algebra 1 Programs that have previously been used for credit recovery.

10. How many credits may a student earn in a Credit Recovery course?

Credit Recovery courses have a 0.5 credit value. If a school’s program qualifies as a credit recovery course, credit will be awarded for students who successfully complete the course:

- attend sessions (maximum of 2 absences; students with more than 2 absences will not receive credit)
- complete required work
- other requirements may be added depending on the structure of the school program.

Attendance will be monitored and verified by the teacher. Teachers will record attendance in eSchoolPlus.

NOTE: Even if a student attended previous Summer Algebra 1 Programs, they may attend again and earn another 0.5 credit elective.

11. What course will the students be enrolled in if the school program qualifies for a Credit Recovery Course?

Students attending the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program for Algebra 1 will be enrolled in Algebra 1 for Credit Recovery 1200315. Students attending the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program for Geometry will be enrolled in Geometry for Credit Recovery 1206315.

12. How will the Grade for the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program Credit Recovery course be determined?

A grade for the 0.5 elective credit recovery course will be given by the program teacher and will be based on meeting the requirements above (see #10). The teacher will assign a grade in eSchoolPlus.

13. What Subject Code is reported on the transcript for a Credit Recovery?

All Credit Recovery courses are deemed elective and are to have an "EL" recorded in the Subject Code column on the transcript.

14. Do Credit Recovery courses count toward academic core subject areas for State University System (SUS), First-Time-in-College (FTIC) admissions and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements?

No. Credit Recovery courses designated with an EL subject code will not satisfy SUS/FTIC admissions and the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program requirements.

15. Is a student required to pass the FSA Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC in order for credit to be awarded in a Credit Recovery course?

No. During the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program, a student is not required to pass an FSA EOC in order for elective credit to be awarded in a Credit Recovery course. The Algebra 1 for Credit Recovery and the Geometry for Credit Recovery course grades are based on the parameters listed above (see #10 and 12).

16. How does Grade Forgiveness work for students who successfully complete the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program?

Grade forgiveness will *only* apply to students who participate in a Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program that qualifies as a credit recovery course.

If the high school Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program meets the requirements for a credit recovery course, then those high school students may be eligible for grade forgiveness. A high school student is eligible for grade forgiveness if their final grade in Algebra 1/Algebra 1 Honors or Geometry/Geometry Honors is a "D" or "F". A middle school student taking a high school credit bearing course is eligible for grade forgiveness if their final grade in Algebra 1 Honors or Geometry Honors is a "C", "D", or "F".

A student earning a passing grade on the FSA Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC (level 3 or higher) will have their FSA Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC grade averaged as 30% of their final Algebra 1/Algebra 1 Honors or Geometry/Geometry Honors grade and the new grade will be entered on their transcript. After reaveraging, if the student's grade is not at least a "C", the student will be awarded a "C" (75%).

17. What are the statutory requirements for grade forgiveness?

Section 1003.4282 (6) F.S., specifies that forgiveness policies shall be limited to replacing a grade of “D” or “F”, with a grade of “C” or higher, earned subsequently in the same or comparable course. The only exception to the forgiveness policy shall be made for a student in the middle grades who takes any high school course for high school credit and earns a grade of “C”, “D”, or “F”. In that case, the district must allow the replacement of the grade with a grade of “C” or higher.

18. Does Grade Forgiveness apply if a high school student earned a “C” in Algebra 1 or Geometry?

No. Grade Forgiveness may not be applied to a required high school course taken during grades 9-12 if the grade earned results in a “C” or higher.

19. Are all grades on the high school transcript calculated into the cumulative grade point average?

All course grades that have a credit value indicated are calculated into the cumulative grade point average unless the course is excluded with an X course flag.

20. Can a course be deleted from a student’s transcript?

No. All forgiven courses and grades must be included on a student’s transcript as an accurate reflection of the student’s record of achievement.

21. Where can a student take a course for grade forgiveness?

Students may take a Credit Recovery course for grade forgiveness through SJVS, FLVS, APEX Recovery Lab, or, if the high school program qualifies, successfully completing the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program. Grade forgiveness is explained in #16.

22. Who may teach in the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program?

Certified Secondary Math (grades 6-12) teachers are preferred but Middle Grades Math (grades 5-9) are also eligible to apply through AppliTrack. Please encourage your very best teachers to apply for a position.

23. When will the jobs be posted?

The job will be posted in August.

24. How much are teachers paid?

Teachers will be paid their hourly rate for documented time based on the approved high school program, not to exceed 55 hours.

There will be an additional paid 4-hour training in August to be coordinated by Donna Soncraut and the APs responsible for the program. (The 4 hours will be paid at a rate of \$20.00 per hour and may be broken into two 2-hour sessions depending on scheduling.)

25. What will the district provide?

Each high school will receive teachers according to enrollment with a 20:1 student: teacher ratio. Principals may use school funds to lower the teacher: student ratio. Each high school will be provided with funding for at least one teacher.

Transportation funding may be possible. Transportation needs and costs should be detailed in the high school proposal of the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program.

26. What are the expectations for the school?

- Each high school must submit a Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program proposal to Gina Fonseca (please copy Donna Soncrant) by June 30, 2021
 - Each proposal must include:
 - Content focus for fall program (will you have a program for Algebra 1, Geometry or both?)
 - Program delivery method (will the program be face-to-face, will it be virtual or both?)
 - Proposed schedule (what are the proposed dates and times?)
 - If program will also be used for credit recovery (if yes, it must meet the requirements of a minimum of 45 student hours)
 - Proposed number of students (broken out by content focus)
 - Transportation needs (including costs), if any (needs will be based on the dates and times of the program)
- Recruit and hire teachers. Encourage them to apply through AppliTrack when the job is posted in August.
- Communicate program information to appropriate students in early August.
- Register students for the program and report registration to Secondary Instructional Services. **Email an official school roster for the program to Elena Beck no later than Friday, August 27, 2021.**
- Each school will designate an assistant principal to be the school's official program contact and responsible for:
 - communicating with, recruiting and registering students for the program;
 - hiring staff;
 - communicating to staff, students and parents;
 - coordinating and administering the EOC;
 - reporting student attendance at the end of the program; and working with the bookkeeper to submit time records for the teacher(s).
- **Bartram –**
- **Creekside –**
- **Nease –**
- **Pedro Menendez –**
- **Ponte Vedra –**
- **St. Augustine –**
- **St. Johns Technical High School –**
- **Tocoi –**

Sample Letter for students

ACTION ITEM: To be mailed home to the parent/guardian of any student who has been identified as a likely candidate for this program. Please individualize this letter for your school and with the appropriate details of your program.

August 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Florida Standards Assessment Algebra 1 End-of-course (EOC) results indicate that your child did not achieve a passing score. However, students currently enrolled in Algebra 1 for the first time must meet the graduation requirement: by passing the FSA Algebra 1 EOC (offered four times each year) during a future administration, earning a comparative score, or passing the Geometry EOC during a future administration. All students are required by state statute to pass the Algebra 1 EOC to earn a standard high school diploma.

In an effort to help all students reach a passing score, we are offering a Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program to prepare your student for re-taking the EOC. The program (list program details – dates/times, meeting location, etc.).

Students who attend the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program and complete the requirements (complete assignments and no more than two absences) will earn a ½-credit elective. In addition, they may be eligible for grade forgiveness to improve their GPA.

A student earning a passing grade on the FSA Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC (level 3 or higher) will have their FSA Algebra 1 or Geometry EOC grade averaged as 30% of their final Algebra 1/Algebra 1 Honors or Geometry/Geometry Honors grade and the new grade will be entered on their transcript. After reaveraging, if the student's grade is not at least a "C", the student will be awarded a "C" (75%).

Transportation will be provided (list details). (Transportation funds must be approved through the proposal.)

Please complete the last section of this letter and email it to _____ your child's school Assistant Principal to confirm your child's attendance at Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program.

Please feel free to contact me or the guidance counselor for additional information.

Sincerely,

Please complete and email to your school:

My child (*please print*) _____
will attend the Fall Algebra 1/Geometry Program at _____ High School.

Signature: _____

Printed name: _____

Daytime contact number: _____ (*circle one:* cell, home, work)

E-mail address: _____

Please see additional resources to help your child prepare:

- Guide to Preparing for the Algebra 1 End-of-Course Assessment: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/isse/wp-content/uploads/sites/93/2015/07/Guide-to-FSA-Algebra-1-EOC-revised-February-2020.pdf>
- FSA/EOC Resources: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/smath/fsaeoc-resources/>