

Beaverton School District Algebra Project

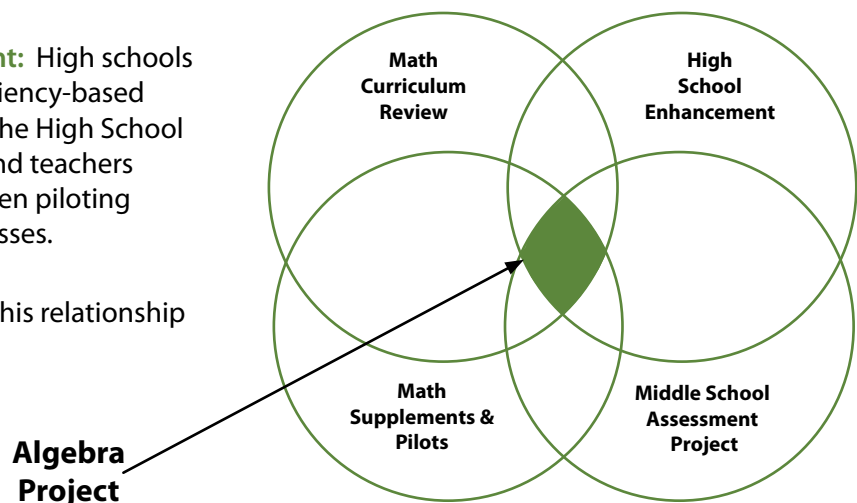
Algebra is taught in several grades in the District and is presented in a number of formats. This variety is to be expected as the State has set "Algebra and above" as the goal for all high school students in the near future. With that variety comes challenges. We have no guarantee that "Algebra is Algebra" across the District, and Algebra I is our most commonly failed course. All Beaverton high schools are working hard to address this challenge, but to date most of that work has been done in isolation. Algebra has also been identified by the School Board as an area of immediate concern.

High schools have Algebra I learning targets, but those targets differ in appearance from the 8th grade learning targets. The Oregon Department of Education has recently delineated new Mathematics Standards in grades K-8, but will not issue new secondary standards (including Algebra) until December 2008. This makes the work a little more difficult.

Fortunately, there are four District-wide initiatives that provide an excellent context to collaborate around what we are calling the *"Algebra Project"*:

- **Mathematics Curriculum Review and Adoption:** We have just completed "Year 1" of the Quality Curriculum Cycle in Mathematics, and during "Year 2" final program recommendations will go to the School Board. This provides an umbrella for the "Algebra Project."
- **Supplementation/Materials Pilot in Math:** This winter the School Board directed Teaching & Learning to identify supplemental materials needs of teachers in Mathematics and look at piloting materials that might help inform the next Math Adoption. One area that emerged for piloting was in teacher developed materials for Algebra I, a project Aloha and Beaverton high schools will work on together.
- **Middle School Assessment Project:** Middle school Mathematics teachers have been working together to develop a proficiency-based assessment model using grade-level learning targets. This work provides a great foundation for looking at Algebra learning targets at 8th grade and examining alignment with high school level Algebra.
- **High School Enhancement:** High schools have also identified proficiency-based assessment as the key to the High School Enhancement initiative, and teachers in several schools have been piloting approaches in Algebra classes.

Here is a visual representation of this relationship among initiatives:



Beaverton School District

Algebra Project

ALGEBRA PROJECT Goals:

1. To align the Algebra materials in use with the new state standards, assure consistency across the District regardless of the curricular structure and develop a transition from the old standards to the new.
2. To establish proficiency-based Algebra I assessments that can be used collaboratively throughout the District regardless of grade level or curricular organization.
3. To make available common teacher tools to use in Algebra I instruction.
4. To align the middle and high school Algebra I programs so that identical learning targets are addressed and common instructional resources are available for all teachers.

ALGEBRA PROJECT Timeline:

May/June	■ Identification of teachers to do summer project work.
June 4	■ Sub committee of teachers working on project will meet to create structure and process format for summer work.
June 17-18	■ Several high school participants will attend the Middle School Assessment meeting to familiarize themselves with the progress to date on proficiency/ sufficiency assessment agreements at the middle level.
August 4-7	■ Alignment work.
2008-2009	■ On-going work throughout the year on assessments, instructional supports, and teacher-created materials. ■ Posting of material via District website.

Project Participants:

Robin Kobrowski	Assessment Specialist
Manny Norse	Math Specialist
Todd Frimoth	Communication Specialist
Christine Muggli	Cedar Park MS
Debbie Hicks	Whitford MS
Diane Fitzpatrick	Conestoga MS
Ken Day	Five Oaks MS
Login Storm	Stoller MS
Gary Grant	Sunset HS
Jared Freeman	Beaverton HS
Mason Smith	Southridge HS
Marcy England	Aloha HS
Sara Beck	Westview HS

Participants were invited based on the need to provide for variety of professional differences in philosophy and pedagogy and provide a link to the existing initiatives. Additional members may be added.