

A collaboration between the Charles A. Dana Center at The University of Texas at Austin, the Learning Science Research Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Agile Mind.



INTENSIFIED ALGEBRA I

A comprehensive curriculum for struggling students

Dramatically increase success rates of students who enter Algebra one to three years behind. Transform academic beliefs and behaviors. Equip teachers with the cohesive, integrated resources they need to help all students succeed.



Research-Based Design



The program incorporates tools and instructional strategies proven to have the greatest impact on struggling students.

In education systems nationwide, 50% of students fail Algebra I the first time and must repeat it—some more than once. For those who enter one or more grade levels behind, the outlook is even bleaker. **Intensified Algebra I** is a comprehensive program that helps these struggling students succeed within one academic year. By focusing on intensification rather than remediation, the program transforms the success curve for students who struggle in mathematics.

Ensure students succeed

Students who are behind need a powerful combination of a challenging grade-level curriculum, cohesive and targeted support, and—just for one year—an investment of more time. Rather than going back just in case students need review of prior grade learning, Intensified Algebra I encompasses embedded, just-in-time review-and-repair for the mathematics key to success in algebra and beyond.

The program integrates social and emotional learning concepts to motivate

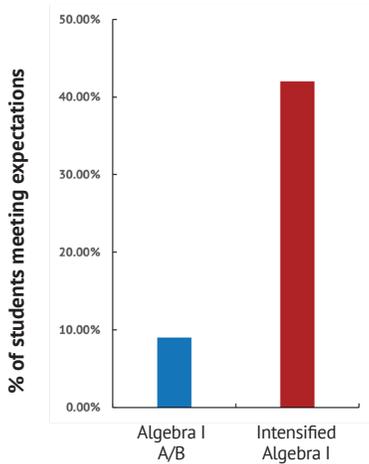
and build students' positive beliefs about their academic abilities. Intensified Algebra I instills in students the ability to persist through challenges by developing the metacognitive awareness and skills to manage their thoughts and feelings. The program helps educators create a positive culture in the classroom—one of safety and belonging that allows students to take risks and challenge themselves to grow.

Intensified Algebra I helps struggling students catch up to—and, in some schools, surpass—their peers, equipping them to be successful in Algebra I, their future math and science courses, and high school.

Ensure teachers succeed

Helping students to catch up is highly demanding work. Intensified Algebra I supports 70-90 minutes of daily classroom instruction and includes embedded professional supports, assessment tools, curriculum, and real-time reports on student progress. The program is designed in a blended model, enabled by technology and supported with print materials.

York County School of Technology (PA)

Keystone Exam Passing Rates
Proficient and Advanced

Among students who participated in **Intensified Algebra I**, the passing rate on the Pennsylvania Keystone Exam was 5 times that of students who took Algebra I A/B the previous year.

For teachers

New and experienced teachers sing their praises of our comprehensive support:

- **Proven, standards-aligned instructional resources**—enriched by simulations and animations of key mathematical concepts—increase student engagement and learning
- **Resources, tools, and classroom routines** equip teachers to establish positive learning environments while intensifying students' progress
- **Online assessment tools deliver** immediate feedback and real-time reporting on the results of instructional decisions
- **Supports for convenient high-quality class preparation** encompass lesson plans, teaching advice, and strategies for improving student collaboration, engagement, and learning

For students

Intensified Algebra I helps students thrive in mathematics:

- **In-depth, hands-on exploration tools**, including animations, simulations, and practice problems, build comprehension of key concepts and skills
- **Continuous feedback** from interactive animations and formative assessments propels engagement and persistence
- **Differentiated instruction** targets individual needs with relevant practice and review using scaffolded lessons, multiple representations of concepts, and daily small-group activities
- **Strategic routines and structures** support students' growing autonomy as learners

Development History

The Intensified Algebra I program responds to an urgent request from the Urban Mathematics Leadership Network (UMLN), an organization of mathematics leaders in 25 of the nation's largest school districts. UMLN districts identified the high failure rate in algebra classes as their top mathematics priority and called for development of a program to address this need.

Intensified Algebra I is the result of a deep collaboration of the Charles A. Dana Center at the University of Texas at Austin, the Learning Sciences Research Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Agile Mind, and leading educators throughout the country. The program was developed with support from the National Science Foundation, the Searle Funds of the Chicago Community Trust, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

In external studies, Intensified Algebra students have shown significantly more positive attitudes and beliefs and have demonstrated major pre- to post-test gains on algebra assessments. These results have been experienced repeatedly and at scale over the last 10 years in districts that have implemented Intensified Algebra I.

“The Intensified Algebra I classrooms in my school are noticeably different. The culture is more welcoming and students seem more collaborative. They trust each other and are willing to try new things. Confidence in math has gone way up!”

- IA Teacher, NM

Contact us

For more information on how to bring Intensified Algebra I to your community:

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Agile educators. Agile learners. Agile tools to support high achievement.