

# COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BEGINS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Early Interventions in Middle School Support High School Readiness

Performance in 9th grade is a strong indicator of high school graduation and postsecondary success. Intervention in middle school is critical to ensure students are on track to graduate on time.

### 9TH GRADE

**MAKE**

OR

**BREAK**

Students who finish 9th grade on track are **4 times more likely to graduate from high school.**

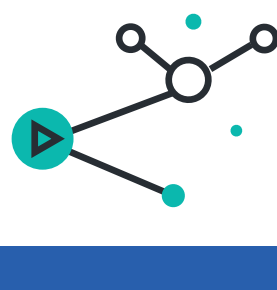
Approximately **1/3 of recent high school dropouts never were promoted beyond 9th grade.**

**On-time graduation rates are higher** for students who stay on track for 10th grade promotion.

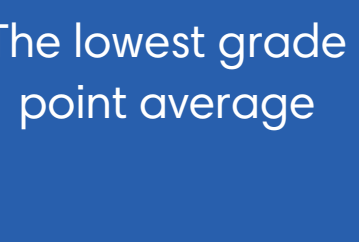
Approximately **22% of students repeat 9th grade.**

Students who have a 9th grade **GPA of 2.5 or higher, pass Algebra I with a C or higher** by 8th grade, and fail at most one class are more likely to graduate.

Students who earn a **2.0 GPA or lower in their freshman year have significantly lower graduation rates** compared to those who earn a 2.5 or higher.

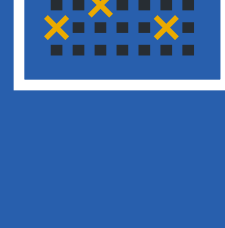


## Compared to other high school grades, 9th grade students have:



The lowest grade point average

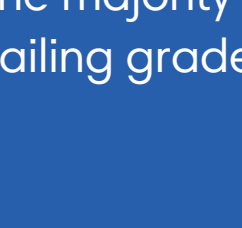
The most missed classes



More misbehavior referrals<sup>1</sup>



The majority of failing grades



## STUDENTS NEED EARLY INTERVENTION PRIOR TO 9TH GRADE

9th grade is too late to prepare for high school.

**45%**

of dropouts said they were not prepared when they started high school<sup>2</sup>

Each course failed in 8th grade increases the odds of non-promotion from 10th grade by<sup>3</sup>

**16%**

## Algebra I and English I are gateways to high school success.

**33%**

Only 33% of 8th grade students performed at or above the Proficient level on National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) mathematics assessments

**34%**

Only 34% performed at or above the same level on NAEP reading assessments



Struggling students need intervention to get them back on grade level and really ready for high school.

## CLOSE THE MIDDLE SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT GAP WITH DIGITAL CURRICULUM

To help students succeed in 9th grade, districts must identify middle school students who need intervention and remediation, and take steps to get them back on track. Effective digital curriculum can help districts:

REMEDiate UNDERPREPARED LEARNERS

PERSONALIZE LEARNING TO FILL GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE

ENGAGE STUDENTS IN THEIR LEARNING TO INCREASE MOTIVATION

PROVIDE RIGOROUS CURRICULUM THAT MEETS STATE STANDARDS

READ THE WHITE PAPER:

"Supporting the Transition from Middle School to High School"



More Learning Happens

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1 <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ903523>

2 <https://docs.gatesfoundation.org/Documents/TheSilentEpidemic3-06Final.pdf>

3 <http://www.odiit.org/article/32116/>

