

# COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS BEGINS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Why Educators Must Intervene Before the Middle-to-High-School Transition

Student performance in 9th grade is a strong indicator of later high school success or failure. Yet intervention is critical during middle school to ensure students get and stay on track to graduate.

### 9TH GRADE YEAR

**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 grade 10 promotion.

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

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

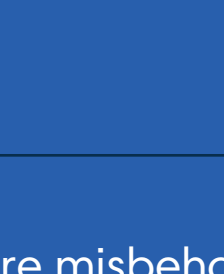
Students who earn a **2.0 GPA or lower in their freshman year have significantly lower graduation rates** compared to those who earn a 2.5 or higher.

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



The lowest grade point average

The most missed classes



More misbehavior referrals<sup>1</sup>



The majority of failing grades



The majority of failing grades

## STUDENTS NEED INTERVENTION PRIOR TO 9TH GRADE

9th grade is too late to start implementing a middle to high school transition program.

**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 9th to 10th grade by<sup>3</sup>

**16%**

**Algebra I and English I are considered gateways to high school success.**

**Yet in 2017:**

**34%**

Only 34% of 8th grade students performed at or above the Proficient level on National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) mathematics assessments

Only 36% performed at or above the same level on NAEP reading assessments

**36%**

**Struggling students need intervention in middle school 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

Learn more about supporting the transition from middle school to high school.

[Read the White Paper](#)

## More Success for More Students

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

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

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.adlit.org/article/32116/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/math\\_2017/nation/achievement?grade=8](https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/math_2017/nation/achievement?grade=8)

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/reading\\_2017/nation/achievement?grade=8](https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/reading_2017/nation/achievement?grade=8)

