

**Bernards Township Public Schools**  
**Office of Curriculum & Instruction**  
**Basking Ridge, NJ 07920**

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Dear Parent/Guardian of Algebra I Student:

In May 2011, your student who is registered in an Algebra I course is required to take an Algebra I End of Course Exam administered by the New Jersey Department of Education. The Department has mandated that every student enrolled in an Algebra I course take this exam. A passing score on this exam is not currently a high school graduation requirement, however, the NJ Department of Education has recently outlined certain repercussions for not passing. This letter is to inform you of such requirements and other implications for currently enrolled Algebra I students.

The Algebra I End of Course Exam has four proficiency bands (*Advanced Proficient, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic*). As required by the NJ Department of Education students who score *Below Basic* must repeat Algebra I and students who score *Basic* must receive some form of intervention to improve their understanding of the Algebra I concepts. In keeping with these requirements, we will implement the following guidelines for those students currently enrolled in Algebra I classes. **These requirements are in addition to any district guidelines or course pre-requisites already in place.**

- Seventh-grade students enrolled in Algebra I will have to score *Proficient or Advanced Proficient* to continue into eighth-grade geometry.
- Eighth-grade students enrolled in Algebra I will have to score *Proficient or Advanced Proficient* to be considered for Honors Geometry in ninth-grade.
- Any Algebra I student who scores *Below Basic* must repeat Algebra I.
- Intervention strategies for those students in Algebra I (except seventh-grade students) who score *Basic* will be integrated into the Geometry course.

In addition, at Ridge High School we offer Algebra I Seminar and Geometry Seminar courses to help support students who need further intervention. Your child's current mathematics teacher or guidance counselor can make recommendations for these classes.

Although the Algebra I End of Course Exam is new, mathematics teachers in the Bernards Township Schools have endeavored to provide all students with a strong foundation in Algebra I skills which we believe will facilitate success on the End of Course Exam. To keep abreast of the changing requirements we have revised our curriculum and instructional strategies to align with the NJ Department of Education requirements. Additionally, I have been working with the Algebra I teachers at William Annin Middle School and Ridge High School to implement strategies to address the changing curriculum.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Additionally, you can find information about the mathematics program and the End of Course Exam at <http://alt.oucoursystems.com/school/webpage.aspx?id=13465&xpage=907248>.

Sincerely,



Marian Palumbo  
Supervisor of Mathematics