

# Math Matters!

- ☑ **Advanced Mathematics builds problem solving and critical thinking skills** imperative for college success.
- ☑ Texas House Bill 5 , passed in 2013, made **Algebra 2 – and four years of math – optional for high school graduation**; Algebra 2 is only required for the STEM Endorsement pathway.
- ☑ Research from E3 Alliance indicates this guidance will hurt Texas students – **they need MORE math than Algebra 2 to be successful beyond high school.**
- ☑ Only **1 in 5 students whose final math course was Algebra 2 earned ANY postsecondary credential** within 6 years of enrolling in college.
- ☑ Students with one **math beyond Algebra 2 were twice as likely** to get a postsecondary credential.
- ☑ Students who completed a **college level math class** (Advanced Placement, dual credit or International Baccalaureate) had a ~60% likelihood of getting a college credential- **mirroring our state’s “60x30TX” goal that 60% of young adults hold a credential by 2030.**
- ☑ Equity gaps begin in early grades. **Half as many low-income students take Algebra I by 8<sup>th</sup> grade** as their non-low income peers, making it far less likely they will take college level math in high school.
- ☑ **Race/Ethnicity gaps in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra I by 8<sup>th</sup> grade have remained unchanged over past 5 years.** White and Asian students are twice as likely (40% and 45%, respectively) to take Algebra I by 8<sup>th</sup> grade than Black and Hispanic peers (18% and 23%).
- ☑ Even the **highest performing students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade who are Black and Hispanic are less likely to be placed in Algebra I by 8<sup>th</sup> grade** than their white or Asian peers.
- ☑ New more **varied, relevant math classes are now being offered in high schools and colleges** that provide students paths to college success better tailored to meet students’ aspirations.
- ☑ And new **College Preparatory Math Courses** are addressing the needs of students not yet college and career ready.
- ☑ Regardless of the traditional or new math pathways available, **EVERY STUDENT** should be told:

***“Take four years of math in four years of high school.  
Take the most Advanced Math you are able to!”***