

## Tiered Algebra Instruction at Walla Walla High School

- Every 9<sup>th</sup> grader takes Algebra\*
- Students with low math skills take a second class; Algebra Support.
- Students who are identified as at risk due to work habits take a study skills class

## Identifying Support Students

- We MAP test all 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Look for students with low test scores and good attendance.

## Algebra Support at Wa Hi:

- A companion class to Algebra.
- Focused on teaching algebra skills.
- Homework neutral.
- Pass/Fail.

## Things we do in Algebra Support

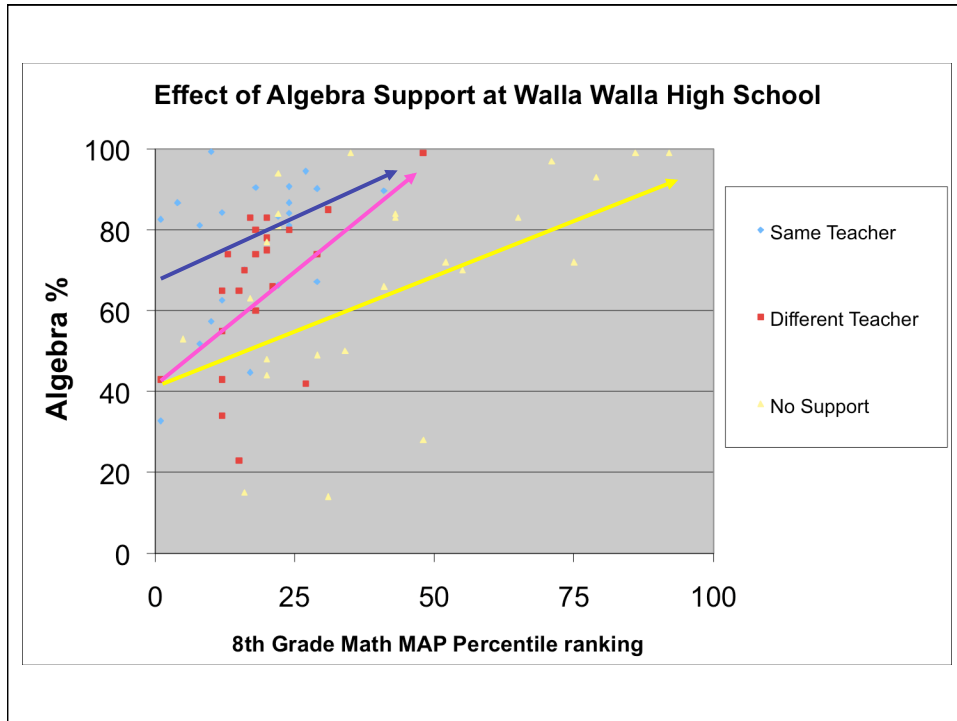
- Drill
  - Every day starts with a power drill.
  - Anything we want to be automatic gets drilled.
- Remediate
  - Fill in missing skills
- Pre-teach
  - Some skills we start well in advance of Algebra
  - Some skills we teach first in the morning so that they are seeing it a second time when they hit Algebra
  - Some multistep processes we will teach the hardest 1 or 2 steps in the morning, then the whole skill in Algebra
- Re-teach
  - If something does not take in Algebra, we work on it in support the next morning.
  - If a particular type of problem is giving students problems we will focus on that type of problem in support the next day.

## Things we do in Algebra Support

- Review
  - Tier 2 students tend to lose skills faster if they are not reviewed.
- Practice Tests
  - Make sure students understand the format of test questions
  - Used to identify areas where they need help
- Individual White Boards
  - Provides immediate feedback to me on who knows what and what kind of mistakes they are making.
  - Students who finish first will help others
  - If a student is lost I can direct a paraprofessional to immediately help them
- Working in Pairs or Small Groups
- One-on-One Help
  - Support class always has a paraprofessional so there are 2 adults that can give one-on-one help.

## Effect on students

- More confident
- Vocal self advocates
- Many become leaders in Algebra Class
- Improved Algebra skills
- Some improve behavior
- Do not necessarily become faster learners, may need extra help in Geometry



## Keys to Success

- Data driven placement
- Small class size (18-20)
- Same teacher for Support and Algebra.
- Paraprofessional-bilingual if necessary
- Flexible curriculum