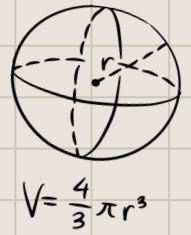


Princeton Middle School

Math Placement Night

March 25

2026

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Princeton Public Schools

INTRODUCTIONS

Kim Tew

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction

Sarah Moore

Supervisor of Elementary Education

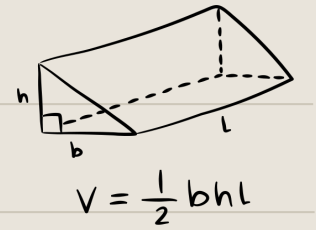
Tiffany Brennan

6-12 Supervisor of Mathematics and Business Education

Jason Burr

Principal, Princeton Middle School

Agenda



- PMS Math Pathways and Onramps
- Special Education, 504, and ESL
- What is LinkIt?
- Rubrics and Placement
- Timelines and Communications
- Planning for the Future
- Q & A

$y = mx + b$

PPS Math Program Review

Recommendations:

NOTE 1

Rename middle school math courses to clearly link their content to math standards

NOTE 2

Remove the word “Accelerated” as courses are not at a faster pace or inclusive of additional standards

NOTE 3

“Accelerated” was in almost every course title, leading to parent and student misconceptions about content

NOTE 4

Revise placement test blueprints to include enhanced Depth of Knowledge (DOK) tasks and connections to the Standards for Mathematical Practices

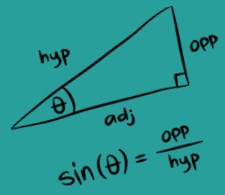
NOTE 5

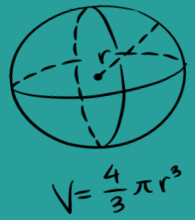
Rewrite math curriculum and collaborate with staff to promote fidelity and consistency

NOTE 6

Leverage data to inform instruction and address students’ areas for growth and areas of strength

Math Pathways



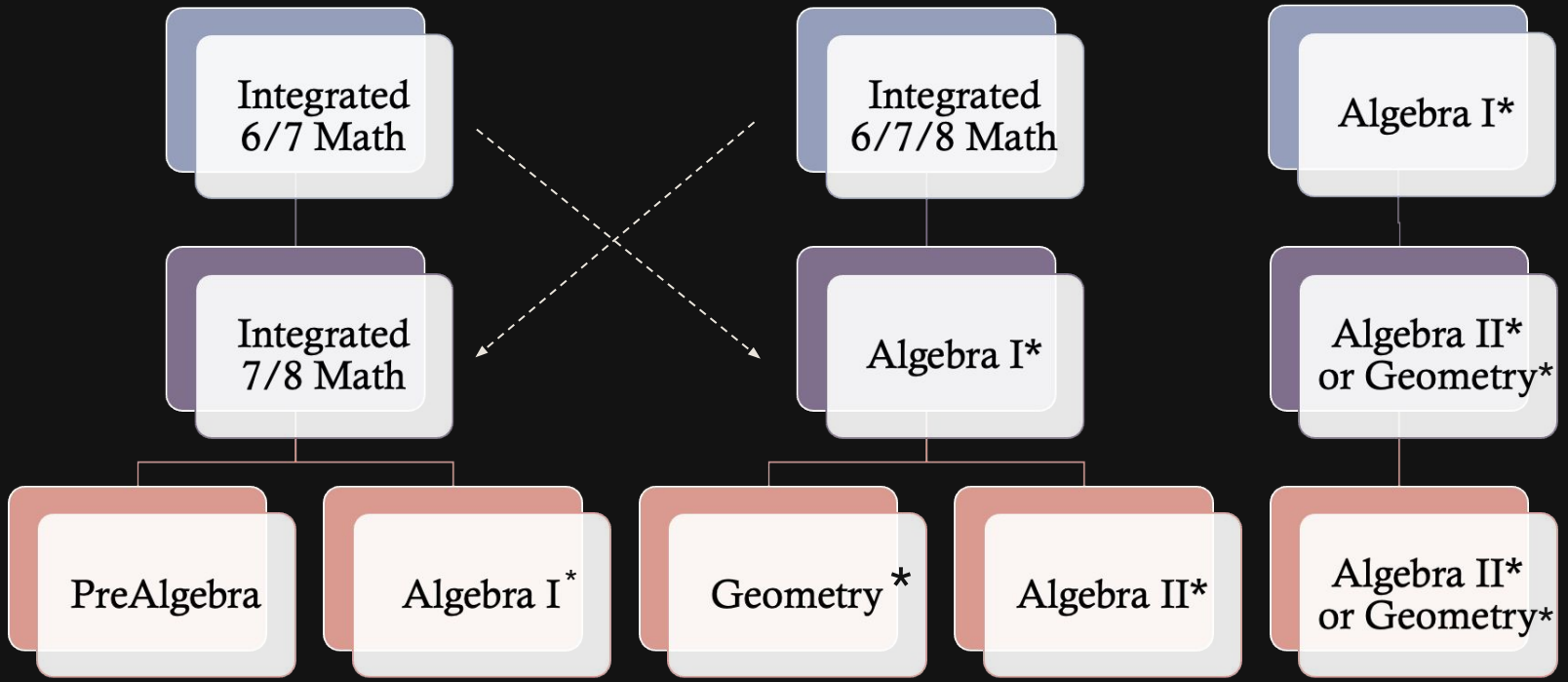


$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

2026-2027

Princeton Middle School

Math Course Sequence for 2026-2027



Students enrolled in Algebra 1 during 6th or 7th grade, Geometry, or Algebra II must maintain an 80% assessment average during each of the first two quarters

Pre Algebra in 8th grade - WHY?

Algebra is too important to rush!

Move-Ins & Standards

Move-ins from out of district/state/country who haven't yet learned 8th grade standards and aren't ready for Algebra 1

Math Lab Needs

8th grade Math Lab students' needs better met

Resource Room Curriculum

8th grade Resource Room can follow the Pre Algebra curriculum

Repeating Algebra 1

Goal is to eliminate the need for any students to repeat Algebra 1 in 9th grade

$$\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = 1$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

Math Lab - 6th and 7th grade

Eligibility

Supports are offered for students who score under 750 on the NJSLA (Approaching Expectations, Partially Meeting Expectations, Not Meeting Expectations) and/or LinkIt Form C.

Special Education Students

Accommodations/modifications in IEP; Support class 2-3 times per week for math (and/or ELA) to focus on individual areas of weakness in each subject

General Education Students

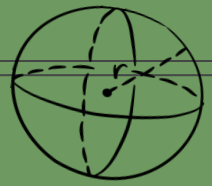
Small group of students; meets 2-3 times/week. Focus on individual areas of weakness in math.

Skills mastered in middle school math are crucial to success in all future math and science courses

Special Considerations in Placement Process

1.	**IEP**	If your child has an IEP, you will discuss placement with your case manager to ensure needs are being met; students will receive their modifications/accommodations throughout the placement process.
2.	**504**	Students with a 504 plan will receive their accommodations throughout the placement process.
3.	**ESL**	Students in ESL programming will receive accommodations throughout the placement process.

Rubric Reviews



$y = mx + b$

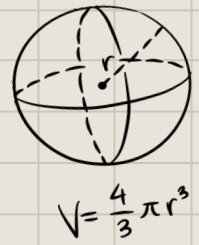
$\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = 1$

2026-2027

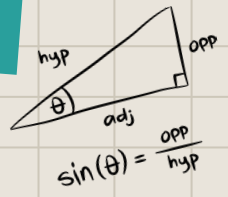
Princeton Middle School

LinkIt!

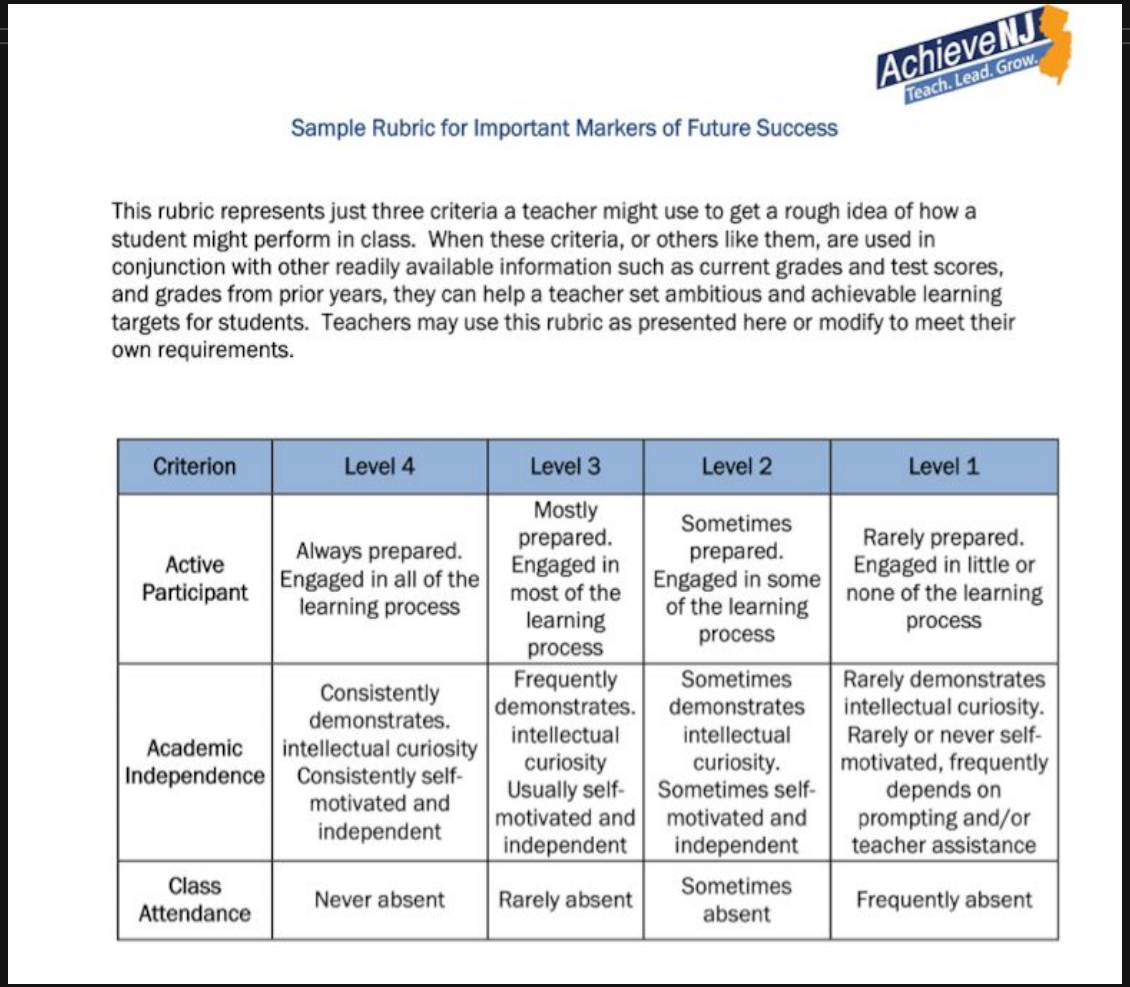
LinkIt is an online data-driven platform; it provides assessments based on New Jersey State Learning Standards, data warehousing, navigator analytics, and an intervention manager system.



Students complete LinkIt benchmark assessments two or three times per year; these assessments measure progress and mastery of end-of-the-year grade level standards.



NJ DOE Markers of Future Success Rubric



Sample Rubric for Important Markers of Future Success

This rubric represents just three criteria a teacher might use to get a rough idea of how a student might perform in class. When these criteria, or others like them, are used in conjunction with other readily available information such as current grades and test scores, and grades from prior years, they can help a teacher set ambitious and achievable learning targets for students. Teachers may use this rubric as presented here or modify to meet their own requirements.

Criterion	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Active Participant	Always prepared. Engaged in all of the learning process	Mostly prepared. Engaged in most of the learning process	Sometimes prepared. Engaged in some of the learning process	Rarely prepared. Engaged in little or none of the learning process
Academic Independence	Consistently demonstrates. intellectual curiosity Consistently self-motivated and independent	Frequently demonstrates. intellectual curiosity Usually self-motivated and independent	Sometimes demonstrates intellectual curiosity. Sometimes self-motivated and independent	Rarely demonstrates intellectual curiosity. Rarely or never self-motivated, frequently depends on prompting and/or teacher assistance
Class Attendance	Never absent	Rarely absent	Sometimes absent	Frequently absent

Math placement rubric (rising 6th)

5th to 6th Grade Math Placement Rubric

1. **LinkIt Form C**

Grade	Not Meeting	Partially meeting	Approaching/ Bubble	Meeting	Exceeding
Points	0	1	2	3	4

Points:_____

2. **Middle School Math Aptitude Assessment**

Grade	Not Meeting	Partially meeting	Approaching/ Bubble	Meeting	Exceeding
Points	0	1	2	3	4

Points:_____

3. **Markers for Success**

Grade	**Does Not Yet Meet Expectations**	**Partially Meets Expectations**	**Approaching Expectations**	**Meets Expectations**	**Exceeds Expectation**
	Student does not demonstrate mastery of grade- level expectations, never engaging in the outlined skills.	Student demonstrates partial mastery of grade-level expectations, rarely engaging in the outlined skills.	Student inconsistently demonstrates mastery or is otherwise approaching mastery of grade- level expectations of the outlined skills.	Student consistently meets grade-level expectations of the outlined skills.	Student consistently exceeds grade- level expectation of the outlined skills.
Points	0	1	2	3	4

4. **Open-ended tasks tied to Mathematical Practices and DOK**

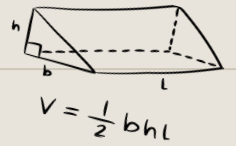
Grade	**Not Meeting**	**Partially Meeting**	**Approaching**	**Meeting**	**Exceeding**
	Provided None of the Following: Mathematical evidence, correct solution, explanation to justify thinking, showed work	Provided One out of Four for the Following: Mathematical evidence, correct solution, explanation to justify thinking, showed work	Provided Two out of Four for the Following: Mathematical evidence, correct solution, explanation to justify thinking, showed work	Provided Three out of Four for the Following: Mathematical evidence, correct solution, explanation to justify thinking, showed work	Provided All of the Following: Mathematical evidence, correct solution, explanation to justify thinking, showed work
Points	0	1	2	3	4

Points:_____

Points/Placement:

- Students who score a 12 or below will be placed in Integrated 6/7 Math, which includes both 6th and 7th grade standards.
- Students who score a 13 may be waived into Integrated 6/7/8 Math, which includes 6th, 7th, and 8th grade standards. Please submit the waiver form if you wish to pursue this option for your child. Waivers must be completed by June 30.
- Students who score between 14–16 will be placed in Integrated Math 6/7/8.
- Students who score 90% or higher on the Middle School Math Placement Assessment and earn a 14–16 on the rubric will take an additional Algebra Aptitude Assessment. Students who score 90% or higher on this assessment will be placed in Algebra 1 (you will receive an additional email after placement rubrics are released). Students who score below "Exceeding Expectations" will be placed in Integrated 6/7/8 Math.

Rising 6th Grade TIMELINE



May 4-22

Testing window open for LinkIt!, Open-Ended Task, and Middle School Math Aptitude Assessment

May 28-29

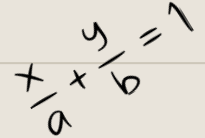
Algebra Aptitude Assessment given to students who qualify (based on discussed rubric)

June 3-9

Data collection and rubric reviews

June 12

Placement decisions emailed to parents



Math placement rubric (rising 7th)

1. LinkIt Form C

Math 6/7/8 students	Not Meeting Expectations	Partially Meeting Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Bubble	Meeting/ Exceeding Expectations
Math 6/7 students	Not Meeting Expectations	Partially Meeting Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Bubble/Meeting Expectations	Exceeding Expectations
Points	0	1	2	3	4

Points:_____

2. Algebra Aptitude Assessment

Grade	Not Meeting Expectations	Partially Meeting Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Bubble/Meeting Expectations	Exceeding Expectations
Points	0	1	2	3	4

Points:_____

3. Markers for Success

Grade	**Does Not Yet Meet Expectations**	**Partially meets Expectations**	**Approaching Meeting Expectations**	**Meets Expectations**	**Exceeds Expectation**
	Student does not demonstrate mastery of grade-level expectations, never engaging in the outlined skills.	Student demonstrates partial mastery of grade-level expectations, rarely engaging in the outlined skills.	Student inconsistently demonstrates mastery or is otherwise approaching mastery of grade- level expectations of the outlined skills.	Student consistently meets grade-level expectations of the outlined skills.	Student consistently exceeds grade-level expectation of the outlined skills.
Points	0	1	2	3	4

4. Average of Three Common Open-ended Response Assessments

Percentage	$x < 80\%$	$80\% \leq x < 87\%$	$87\% \leq x < 94\%$	$x \geq 94\%+$
Points	1	2	3	4

Points/Placement:

1-14 pts: Students will be placed into Integrated Math 7 /8

15-16 pts: Students will be placed into Algebra 1

***Note: Students who score *Exceeding* on the Algebra Aptitude Assessment AND earn 14 points on the rubric can be waived into Algebra 1 per family request using this form by June 30th.**

Math placement rubric (exiting 7/8 math)

1. LinkIt Form C

Grade	Not Meeting Expectations	Partially meeting Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Bubble/Meeting Expectations	Exceeding Expectations
Points	0	1	2	3	4

Points:_____

2. Algebra Aptitude Assessment

Grade	Not Meeting Expectations	Partially meeting Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Bubble/Meeting Expectations	Exceeding Expectations
Points	0	1	2	3	4

Points:_____

3. Markers for Success

Grade	**Does Not Yet Meet Expectations**	**Partially Meets Expectations**	**Approaching Meeting Expectations**	**Meets Expectations**	**Exceeds Expectations**
	Student does not demonstrate mastery of grade-level expectations, never engaging in the outlined skills.	Student demonstrates partial mastery of grade-level expectations, rarely engaging in the outlined skills.	Student inconsistently demonstrates mastery or is otherwise approaching mastery of grade- level expectations of the outlined skills.	Student consistently meets grade-level expectations of the outlined skills.	Student consistently exceeds grade-level expectation of the outlined skills.
Points	0	1	2	3	4

4. In-class Assessment Average

Percentage	< 60%	60-69%	70-79%	80-89%	90% +
Points	0	1	2	3	4

Points/Placement:

1-9 points: Students will be placed into PreAlgebra

10-16 points: Students will be placed into Algebra 1

***Note: Students who earn 9 points can be waived into Algebra 1 per family request using this form by June 30th.**

Math placement rubric (exiting Algebra I)

Algebra 1 to Geometry/Alg 2 Rubric

1. LinkIt Form C

Grade	Not Meeting Expectations	Partially meeting Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Bubble/Meeting Expectations	Exceeding Expectations
Points	0	1	2	3	4

Points:_____

2. Algebra 2 Aptitude Assessment

Grade	Not Meeting Expectations	Partially meeting Expectations	Approaching Expectations	Bubble/Meeting Expectations	Exceeding Expectations
Points	0	1	2	3	4

Points:_____

3. Markers for Success

Grade	**Does Not Yet Meet Expectations** Student does not demonstrate mastery of grade-level expectations, never engaging in the outlined skills.	**Partially meets Expectations** Student demonstrates partial mastery of grade-level expectations, rarely engaging in the outlined skills.	**Approaching Meeting Expectations** Student inconsistently demonstrates mastery or is otherwise approaching mastery of grade- level expectations of the outlined skills.	**Meets Expectations** Student consistently meets grade-level expectations of the outlined skills.	**Exceeds Expectation** Student consistently exceeds grade-level expectation of the outlined skills.
Points	0	1	2	3	4

4. In-class Assessment Average

Percentage	< 80%	80-86%	87-94%	95% +
Points	1	2	3	4

Points/Placement:

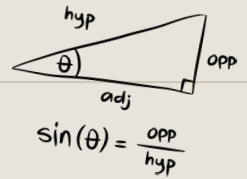
1-13 points: Students will be placed into Geometry

14-16 points: Students will be placed into Algebra 2

***Note: Students who earn 13 points AND score *Exceeding* or higher on the Algebra 2 Aptitude Assessment can be waived into Algebra 2 per family request using this form by June 30th.**

7th grade students currently enrolled in Geometry or Algebra 2 will take the other course in 8th grade. No rubric will be completed for these students

Rising 7th and 8th grade TIMELINE



Ongoing

6th grade open-ended response questions

May 11 - June 5

Testing window for LinkIt Form C, Algebra Aptitude or Alg 2 Aptitude

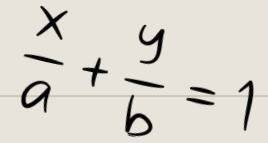
June 5-9

Data collection and rubric reviews

June 12

Placement decisions emailed to parents

$y = mx + b$



Important Notes

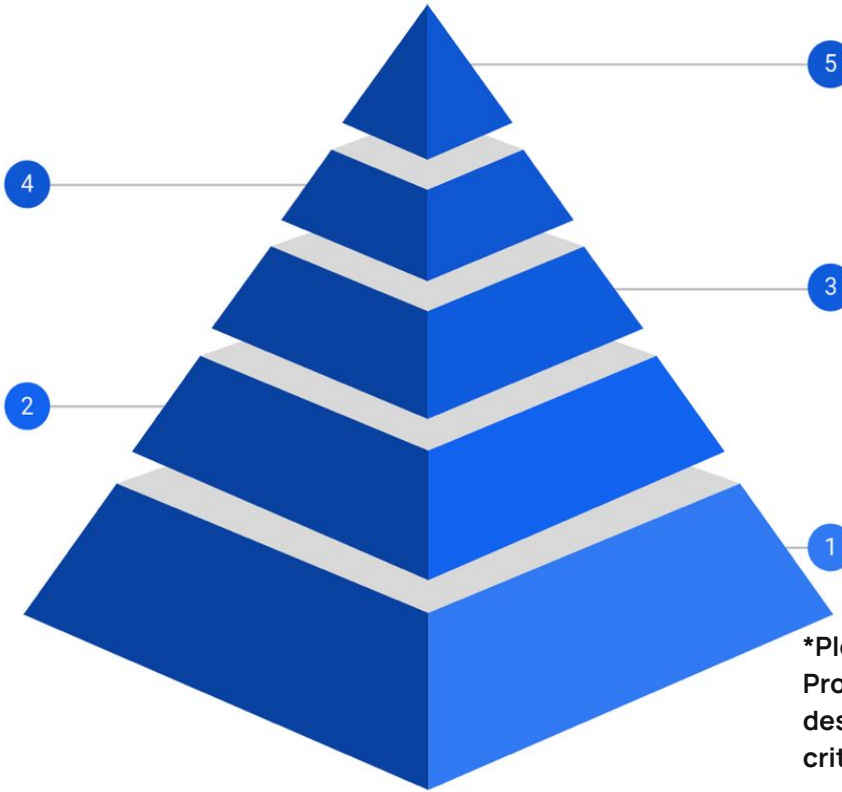
01. **It is important to develop an in-depth, strong foundation of Middle School math skills to be successful in later math courses and ongoing college assessments**

02. **The bulk of concepts students need to know for SAT and ACT exams come from Grades 6-8 Math, Algebra 1, and Geometry**

03. **Completing courses in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 are required for High School Graduation**

11th/12th grade electives:

Intro to Stats/Data Analysis
Discrete Math
AP Statistics



Calculus
5
Regular
AP Calc AB
AP Calc BC
Multivariable Calculus

PreCalculus
4
Applications & Modeling
Regular
Accelerated.

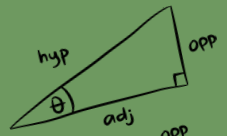
Algebra 2
3
Elements
Regular
Accelerated

Geometry
2
Regular
Accelerated

1 **Algebra 1**

*Please refer to the PHS Program of Studies for course descriptions and qualifying criteria

Questions?



$$\sin(\theta) = \frac{opp}{hyp}$$

If you have any questions, please type them in the Q&A box at the bottom of the screen.

$$\frac{x}{a} + \frac{y}{b} = 1$$

NEXT STEPS

The slide deck and a recording of this webinar will be available on the district website

Points of Contact:

Rising 6th grade: Sarah Moore
SarahMoore@Princetonk12.org

Rising 7th and 8th grade: Tiffany Brennan
TiffanyBrennan@Princetonk12.org

Thank you for your time and partnership!

THANK YOU!