

About the Summer Algebra program. Hillsborough County Math Curriculum Supervisors saw a need for intervening with students who were not able to pass the Algebra End of Course test (A-EOC). Passing the A-EOC is a graduation requirement. After examining the available curriculum, HCPS selected Adaptive Curriculum as the curriculum for the Summer Algebra program. The Math Supervisors instituted a rigorous review to select of teachers who provided instruction in the Summer Algebra program.

About Adaptive Curriculum. Adaptive Curriculum is an interactive math (and science) online learning curriculum. The curricular content for the Summer Algebra program was cooperatively developed between HCPS and Adaptive Curriculum as a blended model using Algebra related portions of the math component of the online curriculum. The blended model tailored the curriculum to allow teachers to utilize select lessons for whole class instruction and individual students to utilize other portions of the curriculum for differentiated instruction.

Summer Algebra Focus. The Summer Algebra program was a brief blended summer intervention over the course of 8 weeks with the intention of reviewing the Algebra curriculum with those students who would be given the opportunity to retake the A-EOC at the end of the summer. HCPS invited all students who did not pass the A-EOC the opportunity to attend. Students were not required to attend the Summer Algebra program in order to retake the A-EOC. Therefore the students who attended the program will be compared to those who did not attend.

Data and Data Analysis. Student participation in the program was evaluated using records provided from the Adaptive Curriculum usage information. Of the students who enrolled in the Summer Algebra program 84% used the curriculum in some way these students had an A-EOC pass rate of 53%. Of those who used the adaptive curriculum program 84% participated in at least 70% of the curriculum with a 54% A-EOC pass rate. Of those students who participated in the complete curriculum (participated in every portion of the blended model) the A-EOC pass rate was 58%. The students who did not participate in the Summer Algebra program had an A-EOC pass rate of 38%.

Results and Considerations. The Summer Algebra program pass rate compared to those students who did not attend is extremely promising. These results are a good indication of the effectiveness of the Summer Algebra program, but should not be taken as a full endorsement of the selected curriculum. Teachers were selected for the Summer Algebra program after rigorous review and students “self-selected” to attend the Summer Algebra program Thus while some of the overall effect can be attributed to the selected curriculum, there is no way to disentangle the effect of the carefully selected teachers and student motivation/attendance from the curriculum used.

Fig. A: Summer Algebra EOC Pass rate

