

We, the undersigned, urge Dr. Nolin and her team to restore full Algebra I in middle school for any students ready for it and to eliminate mixed level classes for math and science in our high schools.

5+ years ago NPS reduced algebra instruction in 8th grade and introduced mixed student levels within the same math/science classrooms across the district for middle and high schoolers with good intentions for equity. The result, however, has been reduced achievement and wider achievement gaps because better resourced parents enrolled their children in outside math programs like RSM.

A previous school committee chair claimed that the data from piloting showed that mixed level classes helped the struggling kids with no impact on high achievers. We have asked and have yet to see this data. San Francisco public schools adopted this policy first a decade ago and NPS was among the first districts to copy it. San Francisco acknowledged that this social experiment of theirs has backfired on a decade's worth of students and they are undoing it. We urge you to undo this now.

Please eliminate mixed level classes at middle and high schools and bring back full algebra to middle schools for the 2025-26 school year. We have confidence that the current school committee, Dr. Nolin and her team will act decisively so that another year does not pass where our young people fall behind in problem solving skills and critical thinking.