

# Algebra Nation: Important Considerations

**What is Algebra Nation:** Algebra Nation provides online access to dynamic content videos aligned to Michigan's Mathematics Standards, companion workbooks, virtual tutoring, and an online practice tool that provides instant, individualized feedback and directs students to resources that target gaps in their understanding. Students and educators across the state will have free, 24-hour access to these materials from the web, tablets, and smartphones.

**How did Algebra Nation Start:** Algebra Nation was an initiative started in Florida when an end-of-course exam for Algebra was instituted and it was found that a high frequency of students were not proficient on the EOC exam. The program was developed initially by The University of Florida along with Study Edge and has been used by Algebra teachers across Florida.

## Points of Interest

- Florida has seen success on their EOC exam for Algebra I. This assessment is written by the American Institute of Research (AIR).
- Florida and Michigan follow similar sets of standards in mathematics. Both adopted the CCSS, but then made slight modifications to those standards.
- Assessments have been designed for each section in the workbook and they can be tracked using a reporting tool in the program
- Video explanations are provided that align with the associated workbook. These videos tend to focus on how to solve the problem (e.g. carry out the procedures to solve).
- Each explanation is video recorded by each of five different 'Study Experts', allowing students to choose the 'Study Expert' that they feel best suits their needs.
- Algebra Nation has an Algebra Wall where students can post questions and receive tutoring support from a live tutor. The Algebra Wall is available throughout the day and into the evening.
- While Florida and Michigan base their curriculum on similar standards, we do use different assessments to measure achievement. Furthermore, we measure that achievement at different times (Florida at the end of Algebra and Michigan in 11th grade on the SAT).
- The State of Michigan has allocated dollars for this program to be paid for during this academic year, but as of February 2017 have no assurance that it will be paid for in the future.
- A representative from Algebra Nation has clarified that it is their intent to only support the tool at the state level and would not be likely to support it on a district-by-district basis.

## Final Considerations

- If you adopt Algebra Nation, we recommend that it is used only as a supplement to a highly-qualified classroom teacher who has provided supports for students to focus on the standards for mathematical practice (e.g. constructing a viable argument, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, making use of structure and so on)
- As a comparison, if you are familiar with Khan Academy, we believe Algebra Nation is a very similar resource except that it offers live tutors, and covers Algebra I content only.