

## What's needed for high schoolers to be ready for college?

- ✓ *Take more rigorous math and more years of math in high school*
  - ✓ *Take math and/or math-based science in the senior year*
  - ✓ *Understand why math is important*
  - ✓ *Know what preparation is needed for college*
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- **Mathematics is the most common deficit**, both for recent high school graduates and older adults. Forty nine (49) percent of 2003 high school graduates who enrolled in two-year colleges needed a remedial math class.
  - The most common reasons for needing to take a remedial math class are that students either didn't take advanced math classes in high school, or have not used their math skills for so long they've become rusty.
  - The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the Office of the Superintendent for Public Instruction and four-year colleges are collaborating to solve this problem. Much of this work is being done through the **Transition Math Project**, which is jointly funded by the 2004 Legislature and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
  - The numerous solutions range from **increasing public awareness** about the needs for math preparation to **equipping math teachers** with a wider range of effective teaching strategies.
  - **Increased awareness is necessary** so that students recognize what level of competence they will need to succeed once they leave high school.
  - **Better communication** will ensure that high school students understand the difference between WASL requirements and college requirements, and are encouraged to take math in their junior and senior years.

## What else is needed?

In the years to come, more funding will be needed to improve the quality and quantity of math instruction at all levels of education in Washington, and to ensure that all high school students know what they need to get ready for college.