Before asking the State Board of Education to make performance on the High School Assessments a condition of graduation, MSDE promised to develop resources that would help students pass the tests. One of the resources cited was online courses that teachers could use to identify and help students having difficulty in the tested subjects or to supplement instruction for all students.

As designed, the courses are meant to be flexible, precisely so that teachers can use them however they wish. For instance, courses can be used to award high school credit. They can be used as a resource for an entire class or for individual students. Students can work on portions of the course—called modules—together or separately, at the same pace or at different paces. Teachers may use modules to introduce a topic or to stimulate classroom discussion about it. They may assign a module to one student for review, to another for exploration, to another for practice, and still another for extra help.

MSDE staff working with online courses note that the more familiar a teacher becomes with a course, the more ways he or she finds to use it.
Algebra/Data Analysis

The nine modules comprising the algebra/data analysis course begin with a brief overview, the Core Learning Goal, expectation, and indicator(s) measured, key concepts related to the indicator, and prerequisite knowledge.

Under each module is a series of lessons and corresponding activities. The lesson overviews feature a glossary of terms, key questions, student outcomes, an activity checklist to help students organize their work, and needed resources, such as a graphing calculator or downloadable documents.

Students complete the activities, checking their answers as they go. (In most cases, floating a mouse over the word “answer” brings up the correct response.) Each lesson concludes with an assignment that students complete and send to their teacher through an electronic drop-box.

Each module also has timed quizzes attached, which students take and hand in online. The quizzes are electronically scored immediately upon submission and can generate grade distribution, grade calculation, and class average reports.

Students “enrolled” in the course can talk to and work with each other—and their teacher—through bulletin boards, chats, and email. A class list identifies fellow students, links to their email addresses, and indicates which are currently online.

MSDE is working on additional teacher resources to accompany the course—resources like flashcards, worksheets, and a bank of released High School Assessment items that will be placed in appropriate modules. MSDE is also developing pre-assessments, which will be modeled after the module quizzes and should help teachers and administrators discern exactly where students require remediation.

Algebra/Data Analysis HSA:
Passing Percentages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
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<td>American Indian</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- 2002
- 2003
- 2004
- 2005

Continued from page 1

The algebra/data analysis and government courses are now online. English and biology will follow.

QUESTIONS about…

Using the algebra/data analysis course with your students

Your math supervisor

Accessing or running the course

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Course content

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