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Dear Parents of 2010-2011 EMS and RHS Algebra I Students:

As part of New Jersey's *High School Redesign* initiative, the state is moving toward implementing "End-of-Course" exams as the graduation exams of record for high school students. One of the first exams to be developed is the Algebra I exam, which for the past few years we have been administering to RHS Algebra I students. In May 2010, per state directive, we began administering the exam to EMS Algebra I students as well. Beginning in May 2011, demonstrating proficiency on the Algebra I End-of-Course exam will be a graduation requirement, whether a student takes Algebra I in high school or in middle school.

The state has further advised us that it is advantageous for students taking the Algebra I exam to have a graphing calculator. We are therefore recommending that you purchase a graphing calculator, such as the TI-84 or TI-84 Plus, for your child, if you have not already done so.

We understand that, especially in difficult economic times, it is not a trivial matter to suggest the purchase of a calculator that can cost 100 – 120 dollars (sometimes less during summer sales). The TI-84 calculator, however, will serve as a valuable mathematical tool throughout your child's high school career. It is even the recommended calculator for Advanced Placement Statistics.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Algebra I exam or about this calculator recommendation, please contact me at [jheinegg@roxbury.org](mailto:jheinegg@roxbury.org).

Sincerely,



James Heinegg  
Assistant Superintendent