

It all adds up

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

A recent push by the Corzine administration to toughen the high school curriculum in New Jersey is the right formula.

The New Jersey High School Redesign Steering Committee this week will present its recommendations to the state Board of Education for introducing more rigorous math and science courses over the next eight years.

The move may inspire a collective groan from young scholars struggling with the intricacies of cosines and chemistry. But they are not shirkers: New Jersey has one of the nation's highest graduation rates. And its students are usually among the top performers on standardized tests given nationwide.

The proposal -- including more hands-on science courses, a requirement for Algebra II, a half-year of economics -- will prepare young people even more for the rigors of college and beyond.

"We have an obligation and a vested economic interest to equip our high school students with the tools they need to build successful lives," Gov. Jon Corzine has said.

Another part of the equation, of course, is making sure that the state's teachers are equal to the task of conveying the material to their students clearly and comprehensively.

With those factors in place, New Jersey's high school graduates will figure in the vanguard of a highly competitive, increasingly technological world.