

Saxon Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ FAQs

Do you recommend Saxon Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$?

While Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ is a pre-algebra course, it does not develop fluency in the fraction, decimal, percent, ratio, and conversion skills that cause most students to struggle in Algebra 1. Math 8/7 (2nd or 3rd edition), which includes Pre-algebra, provides better preparation for Algebra 1, than Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$. However, if you choose to complete Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$, continue working on the Facts Practice drills from Math 8/7 to develop and maintain fluency in these essential skills.

What should I take after Saxon Math 8/7?

Students who have successfully completed Math 8/7 (2nd or 3rd edition) with a test average of 80+ and accurately complete the Facts Practice drills in 5-7 minutes, should skip Saxon Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ and take Shormann Interactive Algebra 1 with Integrated Geometry. [Shormann Interactive Algebra 1](#) & 2 are now recommended over Saxon Algebra 1 & 2. Shormann Interactive Math teaches all the concepts required to excel on the redesigned PSAT and SAT, and ACT, while retaining the original John Saxon teaching methods of incremental development, continual review, and integrated geometry.

My student did not successfully complete Math 8/7. Should he/she take Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$?

No, these students should repeat the Math 8/7 lessons, tests, and facts practice drills until mastery is achieved. Not only is this faster and more efficient than completing Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$, these students do better in Algebra 1 than those who take Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$. For details, please see the Struggling Student section on page 4 of the [DIVE Math 8/7 Teacher Guide](#). If you need help determining which Math 8/7 lessons to repeat, please contact us using the form on the Teacher Guide above. We have been helping homeschool families succeed with Saxon Math for almost twenty years. We would love the opportunity to help you.

What's the difference between Math 8/7 and Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$?

Both Math 8/7 (2nd and 3rd editions) and Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ are pre-algebra courses. While Math 8/7 teaches all the required pre-algebra concepts, the primary focus is to develop *fluency*

in basic arithmetic skills like division, ratios, reducing fractions, and converting a fraction to a decimal or percent. These essential skills make learning algebra easier. Fluency means speed and accuracy. Much like memorizing multiplication facts, students who develop fluency in these skills learn to quickly and accurately perform these skills in their head. This makes learning algebra faster and easier.

The primary focus in Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ is teaching pre-algebra skills. It does not develop fluency in the essential fraction, decimal, and percent skills needed to succeed in Algebra 1. Therefore, Algebra $\frac{1}{2}$ is not recommended.