**Follow Up Responses:**

*Looking to see what other schools do in this situation:*

*We currently allow Algebra I and Biology to be completed in 8th grade.*

*If students wish to leave Algebra I off of their transcript they can complete appropriate paperwork prior to 9th grade and then will need to complete three other Core 40 math courses.*

*For Biology, the DOE has told us that we can not leave this off of the transcript. However, we are considering allowing middle school students who are not happy with their Biology grade to opt out of the high school credit prior to 9th grade and retake it over their freshman year with no record of their first attempt on their transcript.*

*What are others doing?*

* All the places I have worked we have done the latter of your proposal and it was a policy. The student had to pass Alg I with a B- or better to continue on to the next math 9th grade.  If not, they had to retake the Alg I in 9th grade and it would be their first attempt at it.
* We don’t allow the opt out of having Algebra 1 on the transcript.We would only allow students to retake Bio if they scored a D or lower and were on track for Academic Honors.
* Our 8th graders who take Algebra I and/or Biology in 8th grade receive high school credit and the grade goes on their transcript (is figured into high school GPA). They can retake the class if they choose to, but doing so does not change nor override the original grade. For this reason, we do not allow any 8th grader to choose to take either of these high school courses, it is invitation only based upon 7th grade teacher recommendations, class grades in Math 7 (for Algebra) and Science 7 & Language Arts 7 (for Biology), and ISTEP scores in Math (for Algebra) and/or Math & LA (for Biology)

I am not sure why this is policy (if is it state or local), it is a high school policy that I have to monitor while students are taking those courses in my jr high building. It is high-stakes for kids so young, but it is made clear to students and parents before they choose to take the courses so they are aware of academic consequences if they are not ready for the academic challenge.

* if our 8th graders to do not want their Algebra I grade or Biology grade on the transcript, they must retake the class.
* For our 8th graders, we only offer Algebra 1 for high school credit.  However we give them the option (the same as what you are considering for biology) of taking it for high school credit or repeating the course with no record of the first attempt on the high school transcript.  I have attached the Algebra form that our 8th grade Algebra kids sign in the spring.
* We allow students to take Honors Biology in middle school.  They can have a no-fault drop at the 9-week period.  We give them the quarter to reconsider.  They then go into an 8th grade science class.
* does not transcribe anything below a B-....we don't want to start the kids with a GPA below, NCAA, 21st century, most major colleges, etc
* We give students the choice whether they want their junior high credits put on their high school transcript for all credits (math, science, world language).  They have until March of their freshman year to decide (so they can see their first semester GPA/rank).

If they don’t put Biology on their transcript, then they still have to take a living science in high school to meet the Core 40 requirements (Bio II, AP Bio, Anatomy).  They can only really retake Biology if they didn’t earn a C or better.

* If our students take a HS course in MS, then it goes on their transcript.  They know this before they sign up.  It goes on, no matter what their grade.  They CAN retake it for a better grade 9th grade ONLY, if they didn't do as well as they had wanted but they can't do it after that to just raise their GPA for class rank.
* For us...if they take it in 8th for credit, it goes on their HS transcript.