January 2020 Algebra 1 credit recovery

We are not believers in using a general diploma which is the reason we don’t use a system similar to yours.  If a student fails S1, he/she keeps rolling through S2.  We then have a summer school program the student can use for credit recovery.  In some instances, students are retaking S1 Algebra 1 and ALSO taking S1 of Geometry to stay on track.

We would have them double up 10th grade sophomore year first semester with sem 2 Algebra I and sem 1 Geometry since if they are struggling with Algebra they won't be ready for Alg 2 but might be successful with a different math that would meet either General or Core 40.  The junior year we would look at what we needed to do.

  We were doing something like this and stopped a couple years ago when ISTEP came in.  We keep them in an ALG course for the entire year, even if they fail the first semester.  Instead, we double block them in ALG 1 and ALG 1 LAB for semester 2 to try to give them more support.  We actually try to review these students quarterly to see if they need to move into a double block or out of one.

We had a situation where students were repeating but then missing a whole semester of math at some point in their sequences.

A school could look at plugging that semester with a semester of MATH 10 now, but that course didn’t exist then.

We also created a stripped down version of ALG 2 that was a terminal course for students looking to get a Core 40 only.  ALG 2 was a very hard class for a lot of students as it was really a pre-Pre-Calc class.

I think these 2 things really helped us to limit our General Diplomas.  We were up around 12% and are down to under 6%.

We schedule them the same way you do, but we also offer the 2nd semester content in summer school for Alg 1, Geom, and Alg 2.  Our math teachers also structure the class a little differently, using some non-traditional instructional materials and techniques and purposefully embedding additional reteaching

Same, but we go Algebra I - Geometry - Algebra II, but we always offer an out of sequence section through Algebra II-B. We have a decent culture of Core 40 being the minimum diploma. When General diplomas were a hit to everyone, we took the requirements out of our curriculum book and pretty much said Core 40 was the minimum. We do have students do General diplomas but we don't pull that option out until there's no possible way they can get a Core 40. We're big enough maybe that we can get away with that and word doesn't "get around" that you can do a General and skip Algebra II, but we position Core 40 as the minimum for everyone.