

Fort Thomas Ind Schools
Advanced Coursework District Plan
October 2025

Related definitions

"Accelerated learning" means "an organized way of helping students meet individual academic goals by providing direct instruction to eliminate student performance deficiencies or enable students to move more quickly through course requirements and pursue higher level skill development," (KRS 158.6453(1)(a)).

"Advanced coursework" means "educational programs or opportunities designed to challenge students with more rigorous content beyond the standard curriculum, including but not limited to advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, and honors courses," (KRS 158.6453(1)(b)).

"Advanced placement" or "AP" means "a college-level course that incorporates all topics and instructional strategies specified by the College Board on its standard syllabus for a given subject area and is licensed by the College Board," (KRS 158.007(1)).

"Core curriculum" means "at least one (1) course in science, one (1) course in mathematics, and at least one (1) course in two (2) of the following subject areas: English, social studies, foreign language, and the arts," (KRS 158.0076).

"Dual credit" means "a college-level course of study developed in accordance with KRS 164.098 in which a high school student receives credit from both the high school and postsecondary institution in which the student is enrolled upon completion of a single class or designated program of study," (KRS 158.007(8)).

"Dual enrollment" means "a college-level course of study developed in accordance with KRS 164.098 in which a student is enrolled in a high school and postsecondary institution simultaneously," (KRS 158.007(9)).

"International Baccalaureate" or "IB" means the International Baccalaureate Organization's Diploma Programme, a comprehensive two (2) year program designed for highly motivated students," (KRS 158.007(10)).

Fort Thomas Independent Schools is committed to providing rigorous and engaging learning experiences that promote academic excellence, creativity, and continuous growth for all students. The district uses assessment data and multiple criteria to identify learners who may benefit from advanced coursework or accelerated learning pathways in language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science for grades four (4) through twelve (12). Additional guidance regarding the identification and service of Gifted and Talented students is outlined in Board Procedure 08.312 AP.1, which details the district's practices for identification, service delivery, and curriculum design, including opportunities for advanced and accelerated learning.

Student Eligibility

Students may qualify for advanced coursework or accelerated learning opportunities in a specific content area through one or more of the following criteria: formal identification as Gifted and Talented, a teacher recommendation based on demonstrated performance and course grades, or qualifying assessment results as determined by district-established benchmarks. Students are also able to self-select with collaboration with parents and school counselor.

School counselors shall inform eligible students and their parents or guardians of available advanced coursework and accelerated learning opportunities, ensuring that families are aware of placement options and pathways for academic advancement.

Strategies and Approaches

Advanced coursework and accelerated learning opportunities are designed to meet the diverse needs, interests, and readiness levels of students through differentiated instruction, flexible grouping, and varied instructional pathways. These approaches promote depth of understanding, critical thinking, and the application of knowledge across content areas, ensuring that each student is appropriately challenged and supported.

Furthermore, the following strategies, approaches, and service delivery options will be available for students in grades four (4) through twelve (12):

Grades 4 and 5

Instructional strategies and approaches for advanced coursework and accelerated learning in grades four (4) and five (5) are designed to ensure that students engage in rigorous, meaningful, and developmentally appropriate learning experiences. When appropriate, teachers eliminate content already mastered by students and replace it with enrichment or acceleration opportunities. Differentiated instruction and tiered assignments allow educators to tailor tasks by readiness level, providing appropriate challenge while maintaining access to grade-level standards. Flexible grouping, both within and across classrooms, is utilized to support collaboration among students with similar readiness levels or interests. Independent study and inquiry-based projects are incorporated to promote self-directed learning, problem-solving, and creative exploration, while cross-curricular integration and project-based learning encourage the application of knowledge across multiple disciplines.

In language arts, instruction emphasizes advanced reading comprehension, literary analysis, and written expression through the use of complex texts, literature circles, and writing across genres. Students engage in Socratic seminars, text-based debates, and research writing to deepen their analytical and communication skills.

In mathematics, students progress through an accelerated curriculum when appropriate, focusing on complex problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, and modeling of real-world scenarios. Teachers incorporate open-ended tasks, technology integration, and opportunities for advanced learners to engage in enrichment or extension activities beyond grade-level standards.

Science instruction is driven by inquiry and exploration, allowing students to design experiments, analyze data, and engage in hands-on investigations that promote creativity, critical thinking and scientific reasoning. Integration of STEM activities and real-world problem-solving further enhances depth of understanding.

In social studies, instruction focuses on historical inquiry, document analysis, and perspective-taking through simulations, debates, and project-based learning. Students are encouraged to explore global connections, evaluate primary and secondary sources, and synthesize information to form evidence-based conclusions. Connections between historical events and current issues are emphasized to help students develop global awareness, media literacy, and a strong sense of civic responsibility.

Grades 6 - 8

Instructional strategies and approaches for advanced coursework and accelerated learning in grades six (6) through eight (8) are designed to challenge students academically while fostering independence, intellectual curiosity, and a deeper engagement with complex ideas. Instruction emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration as students prepare for high school coursework. Teachers use curriculum compacting, pre-assessments, and flexible pacing to tailor instruction and allow students to progress through standards at an accelerated rate. Differentiated instruction, tiered assignments, and inquiry-based learning are used to meet individual readiness levels while promoting depth of understanding and application of knowledge across disciplines.

In language arts, advanced learners engage with complex literary and informational texts to analyze structure, theme, and author's craft. Students participate in Socratic seminars, advanced literature circles, and cross-textual analysis that encourage interpretation and synthesis of ideas. Writing instruction focuses on advanced composition, argumentation, and research-based writing, allowing students to develop sophisticated claims and support them with credible evidence. Opportunities for public speaking, debate, and publication further strengthen communication and critical reasoning skills.

In mathematics, students demonstrating readiness may progress through compacted or accelerated pathways, including pre-algebra, algebra, or geometry courses prior to high school. Instruction emphasizes problem-solving, mathematical reasoning, and modeling of authentic

scenarios that require strategic thinking and precision. Teachers incorporate open-ended investigations, mathematical discourse, and technology-based applications to deepen conceptual understanding and fluency. Collaboration and self-directed exploration are encouraged through math labs, competitions, and extension projects.

In science, instruction is guided by inquiry and experimental design that promotes higher-level questioning, data analysis, and application of scientific principles. Students engage in laboratory investigations, research projects, and engineering design challenges that require hypothesis testing, evidence-based reasoning, and interdisciplinary thinking. Integration of technology and real-world data provides opportunities for students to model scientific phenomena, develop solutions to authentic problems, and communicate findings effectively.

In social studies, students explore historical, geographical, civic, and economic concepts through critical inquiry, document-based questions, and analysis of primary and secondary sources. Advanced learners engage in simulations, debates, and research projects that promote perspective-taking and evidence-based reasoning. Connections between historical events and current issues are emphasized to help students develop global awareness, media literacy, and a strong sense of civic responsibility.

Advanced coursework and accelerated learning at Highlands Middle School include Advanced Placement and Advanced

Advanced Placement Courses
Computer Science Principles

Advanced Courses
English: Language Arts 7 Advanced, Language Arts 8 Advanced
Math: Math 6 Accelerated, Pre-Algebra, Algebra I 7th, Algebra I 8th, Geometry 8
Other: Engineering I, German I, Intro to Spanish, Spanish I, Digital Literacy/MOS 8, FCS Essentials, Intro to Media Arts

Grades 9 - 12

Course offerings at Highlands Highschool include Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, and Advanced.

Advanced Placement Courses
Art, Art History, Biology, Business Principles and Financial Literacy, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Chemistry, Computer Science A, Computer Science Principles, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, German, Government, Human Geography, Macroeconomics, Music Theory, Physics C, Pre-Calculus, Psychology, Spanish, Statistics, American History, European History, World History, We the People (offered as an AP weighted section), AP Seminar/English II and AP Research.

Advanced Courses
English: English I Advanced
World Language: Spanish III, IV - German III, IV, V

Mathematics: Algebra II Advanced, Geometry Advanced, Pre-Calculus Advanced, Advanced Computer Science II

Science: Physics I Advanced, Biology I Advanced, Chemistry I Advanced, Anatomy & Physiology Advanced

Social Studies: Introduction to Education

Fine Arts: Advanced Music

Other: Advanced Design Applications, Abnormal Psychology Advanced, Video Studies Fundamentals/Advanced Film, Advanced Studio Production/Video Production

Dual Credit

Northern Kentucky University	Other
BUS 100 NKU Business Essentials FLC 101 NKU Path Financial Success LDR 101 NKU Leader in Action ACC 200 NKU Principals of Accounting ENTP 201 NKU Entrepreneurship Mindset LDR 205 NKU Human Relations in Org LDR 160 NKU Leadership Around the World INF 286 NKU Intro to Web Development INF 284 NKU Intro Network and Data JPN 101 NKU Elementary Japanese HSC 101 NKU Intro to Health Professionals HEA 135 NKU Safety and First Aid EGT 212 NKU Comp Aid Draft/Design CMST 101 NKU Public Speaking BIO 208 NKU Anatomy/Physiology I BIO 209 NKU Anatomy/Physiology II LDR 180 NKU Lead SCL/Cult Cha EDU 104 NKU Orientation to Education EDU 305 NKU Intro to Education EDU 300 NKU Human Growth/Development HEA 230 NKU Person Health/Well POP 205 NKU Intro to Pop Culture PHI 220 NKU Health Care Ethics PHI 101 NKU Philo, Cult, Crea JUS 307 NKU Peacemaking Criminology TAR 102 NKU Race, Gender, Theater JOU 110 NKU Intro to Mass Com ISBA 275 NNKU Intro to Bus Ana ISBA 101 NKU Fund Bus Comp PHI 181 NKU Phil, Cult, Creat	Thomas More University BUA 105 TMU Intro to Business ENG 150 TMU Lit, Writing and Research I ENG 250 TMU Lit, Writing, and Research II Western Kentucky University MKT 220 WKU Basic Marketing Concepts CIS 141 WKU Analytics Tech Eastern Kentucky University MUH 171 ECU Music Appreciation NFA 201 ECU Essentials of Nutrition GLY 108 ECU Earthquake/Volcanoes EMC 105 ECU Medical Term EMC 104 ECU Emerg Procedure HCA 100 ECU Health Care Development HCA 200 ECU Medical Term

****Courses subject to change based on the SBDMC approved Course Catalog.**

Service Delivery Options

- i. Collaborative teaching and consultation services;
- ii. Special counseling services;
- iii. Differentiated study experiences for individuals and cluster groups in the regular classroom;
- iv. Distance learning;
- v. Enrichment services that are not extracurricular during the school day;
- vi. Independent study;
- vii. Mentorships;
- viii. Resource services delivered in a pull-out classroom or other appropriate instructional setting;
- ix. Seminars;
- x. Travel study options; or
- xi. Special schools or self-contained classrooms for students in grades four (4) through twelve (12) only.

Related State Regulations and FTIS Board Policies

08.1122 Advanced Coursework

08.2211 Academic Honors - Advanced Curriculum, Major of Intensive Study
Gifted and Talented Procedures

08.132 AP.1 Gifted and Talented

KRS 158.6453

KRS 160.348

704 KAR 3:510