

Hardin County Schools

Advanced Coursework and Accelerated Learning Plan (Adopted pursuant to House Bill 190 (2025) and KRS 158.6453(21))

Date of Adoption:

Effective Date: December 1, 2025

I. Purpose and Alignment

Pursuant to HB 190 (2025) and KRS 158.6453(21), the Hardin County School District (HCS) establishes this districtwide plan to promote advanced coursework and accelerated learning opportunities in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies for students in grades 4 through 12.

The purpose of this plan is to:

- Provide clear and equitable pathways for students to access advanced learning.
- Use consistent criteria and data to identify students for participation.
- Ensure alignment with Kentucky Academic Standards and statutory requirements.
- Foster a culture of high expectations, academic rigor, and student empowerment.

II. Guiding Principles

1. Equity and Access: All students, regardless of background or circumstance, will have the opportunity to participate in rigorous academic experiences.
2. Early Identification: HCS will use multiple measures of student performance, growth, and readiness beginning in grade 3 to identify students ready for advanced learning.
3. Open Enrollment: Students demonstrating interest in challenging coursework will be encouraged and supported to enroll.
4. Continuous Communication: Families will be informed annually of available opportunities and long-term benefits of participation in advanced coursework.
5. Collaboration: Teachers, counselors, administrators, and families will work together to support student readiness and success.

III. Identification Criteria for Advanced Coursework

HCS will use consistent criteria and preliminary assessment data to identify students for advanced coursework, including:

Academic Indicators:

- Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) proficiency or distinguished performance.
- Universal screener and diagnostic assessment data (e.g., iReady growth, ITBS).
- Curriculum-embedded and formative assessments.

Additional Considerations:

- Grades and GPA trends.
- Teacher and counselor recommendations.
- ILP goals and progress (grades 6-12).
- Attendance and classroom engagement.
- Demonstration of critical thinking, creativity, leadership, or resilience.

Students scoring Distinguished in a content area on KSA may be automatically enrolled in the corresponding advanced course, unless a parent/guardian requests withdrawal.

IV. Service Delivery by Grade Level

Grades 4–5 (Elementary Level)

- Accelerated Learning Options:
 - Compacting curriculum for faster progression.
 - Flexible grouping for enrichment and acceleration.
 - Differentiated instruction and advanced reading/math groups.
- Service Delivery Options:
 - Collaborative teaching and consultation.
 - Pull-out enrichment sessions for gifted students.
 - Independent study and project-based learning.
 - Distance or virtual learning modules.

Grades 6–8 (Middle Level)

- Advanced Coursework Options:
 - Honors or accelerated language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
 - Pre-AP or high school equivalent coursework in core subjects.
- Service Delivery Options:
 - Cluster grouping for advanced learners.
 - Mentorship or leadership projects.
 - Independent study and seminars.
 - Distance or virtual learning modules.

Grades 9–12 (High School Level)

- Advanced Coursework Options:
 - Advanced Placement (AP), Dual Credit, and Dual Enrollment courses.
 - Career and Technical Education (CTE) dual credit pathways.
 - Early graduation or early college programs.
- Service Delivery Options:
 - AP/dual credit partnerships with postsecondary institutions.
 - Independent study, seminars, and capstone projects.
 - Mentorship and internship experiences.
 - Special schedule-based advanced courses.

HCS will accept for high school credit any AP or high school equivalent course completed by a student in grades 5–8 with a score of 3 or higher on the AP exam or a grade of B or better in the equivalent course.

V. Communication and Recruitment

Each school shall:

1. Publicize available advanced coursework options annually via the district website, school newsletters, or counseling sessions.
2. Provide parents/guardians written notification of opportunities, benefits, and expectations.
3. Communicate advanced learning pathways to students annually.
4. Establish a process for recruitment and retention of underrepresented students.

VI. Withdrawal Procedures

- A parent or guardian may request withdrawal of a student from advanced coursework.
- The principal may approve withdrawal only after a good-faith attempt to contact the parent or guardian.
- A principal may initiate withdrawal without parental consent only if continued participation is determined to have an adverse educational impact on the student.

VII. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Instruction Services Department will:

- Review enrollment and success data annually to ensure equitable access and success rates.
- Monitor alignment with KDE guidance and legislative updates.
- Report findings and recommendations to the Superintendent and Board of Education each fall.

VIII. Publication

This policy will be:

- Posted on the Hardin County School District website.
- Distributed annually to all school administrators and SBDM councils.
- Used to guide local school policy development under KRS 160.348 and 704 KAR 3:510.

IX. References

- KRS 158.6453(21)
- KRS 158.622(3)(b)
- KRS 160.348
- 704 KAR 3:305
- 704 KAR 3:510
- KDE Advanced Coursework Guidance (October 2025)