



MEMORANDUM

FROM: Kim Paulus, Director of Curriculum EC-5
TO: Board of Education; Dr. Timothy Kilrea and Dr. Kyle Schumacher, Interim Superintendents
CC: Stephen Buchs, Kim Lewis, Theresa Kolkebeck, Marilyn Mattei, Andrew Gibbs, Matt Newquist, Matt Palcer
DATE: January 14, 2026
RE: Academically Advanced Learning Pathway 4-8

To better support students demonstrating advanced academic readiness and strong intellectual aptitude, I am seeking Board approval to implement an Academically Advanced Learning Pathway for students in grades 4-8. This pathway is designed to provide increased academic challenge when appropriate, while maintaining equitable access and alignment to district curriculum expectations.

Implementation will occur through a phased rollout to ensure thoughtful design, staffing and evaluation:

Year 1: SY 2026-2027
Grades 4 Accelerated Mathematics

Year 2: SY 2027-2028
Grades 6-8 ELA Enrichment
Grade 5 Accelerated Mathematics

During Year 1, each elementary school will implement one academically advanced learning section for Grade 4 mathematics. This initial phase will serve as a pilot model, allowing the district to refine instructional practices, placement criteria, and curriculum supports prior to expansion. Ongoing monitoring and evaluation will inform future implementation and ensure the pathway effectively supports student growth.

Approval of this proposal will allow the district to proceed with planning and implementation for the 2026–2027 school year.