

#6080.26.4

**Enrollment in an Advanced Course or  
Program and Challenging Curriculum  
(formerly Advanced Courses Placement)**

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The Madison Board of Education (the “Board”) understands the importance of providing opportunities for students to enroll in an advanced course or program and offering students challenging curriculum in the Madison Public Schools (the “District”). In accordance with Connecticut law, this policy shall explain the manner in which the District determines eligibility for enrollment in advanced courses or programs and creates academic plans for students in the District.

**I. Definitions**

For purposes of this policy:

"Advanced course or program" means an honors class, advanced placement class, International Baccalaureate program, Cambridge International program, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college or any other advanced or accelerated course or program offered by the Board in grades nine to twelve, inclusive.

“Advanced placement” program is a program authorized by the College Board that offers college-level courses and exams that students take in high school.

“Cambridge International program” is an internationally recognized academic program for students aged five (5) to nineteen (19). High school level courses, available only through approved Cambridge International Schools, provide students the opportunity to earn postsecondary credit that is accepted by colleges in the United States and abroad.

“Dual credit/Dual enrollment” courses are college courses offered by high schools in partnership with a college or university. Students taking these courses in high school are simultaneously enrolled with the partner higher education institution. Students who successfully complete a dual credit/dual enrollment course earn credit toward high school

34 graduation as well as college course credit that appears on a student transcript issued by a  
35 college or university.

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37 “International Baccalaureate (“IB”) program” is a program that offers international  
38 education through four programs for students aged three (3) to nineteen (19). The four  
39 programs are: Primary Years, Middle Years, Diploma Program, and Career-related  
40 Program. Schools must be authorized to teach IB programs. Every authorized school is  
41 known as an IB World School.

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43 "Prior academic performance" means the course or courses that a student has taken, the  
44 grades received for such course or courses and a student's grade point average.

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46 **II. Eligibility Criteria**

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48 Consistent with state law, the District will identify students in grades eight and nine who  
49 may be eligible to take or enroll in an advanced course or program. Students will be  
50 eligible to enroll in advanced courses or programs throughout their high school career,  
51 even if they are not identified as eligible in grades eight or nine.

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53 Eligibility for enrollment in an advanced course or program shall not be based exclusively  
54 on a student’s prior academic performance. There are multiple methods by which a student  
55 may satisfy the eligibility criteria for enrollment in an advanced course or program,  
56 including:

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- 58 • Recommendations from teachers, administrators, school counselors or other school  
59 personnel.
  - 60 • A student’s prior academic performance, as determined by evidence-based indicators  
61 of how a student will perform in an advanced course or program.
  - 62 • The District administration may, in its discretion, identify and publicize additional  
63 criteria, including but not limited to student or parent request. Any such criteria shall  
64 be established prior to the commencement of an academic term.

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66 **III. Creation of an Academic Plan/Challenging Curriculum**

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68 The District will create an academic plan for each student who is identified in grade eight  
69 or nine as eligible for enrollment in an advanced course or program. Such plan will be  
70 designed to enroll the student in one or more advanced courses or programs and allow the  
71 student to earn college credit or result in career readiness. Such academic plan will also be  
72 aligned with:

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- 74 • The courses or programs offered by the Board,
- 75 • The student’s student success plan, created pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-  
76 221a(j),
- 77 • High school graduation requirements, and
- 78 • Any other policies or standards adopted by the Board relating to the eligibility for  
79 student enrollment in advanced courses or programs.

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81 The academic plan may be part of the student’s success plan, which plan is required for  
82 each student by Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-221a.

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84 A student, or the student’s parent or guardian, may decline to implement the provisions of  
85 an academic plan created for such student.

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87 **IV. Guiding Principles and Implementation**

88 The Board recognizes that course access and academic planning should be guided by  
89 considerations beyond traditional course eligibility criteria. Specifically, the Board  
90 recognizes that academic achievement and engagement in middle school are strong  
91 precursors to high school success. In addition, the Board recognizes the importance of  
92 engaging with a student’s parents and/or guardians throughout the student’s educational  
93 experience, reducing barriers to opportunities for advanced courses and programs, and  
94 providing a wide range of advanced courses that appeal to students with various interests.

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96 The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for implementing this policy and  
97 developing procedures in furtherance of this policy and in accordance with guidance  
98 provided by the Connecticut Department of Education.

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100 Legal Reference:

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102 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a

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104 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221w

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106 Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221x

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108 Connecticut State Department of Education, *District Guidance for Developing an*  
109 *Advanced Course Participation Policy* (April 2022)

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111 First Reading: November 15, 2022

112 Second Reading: November 29, 2022

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