Initial Placement Guidelines for 2024-2025 Course Recommendations for Core Content Areas in Grades 6-12

In January, teachers of pre-requisite courses are responsible for making appropriate course recommendations for the next school year based on current and past performance.  In making recommendations, teachers are encouraged to consider student interests, overall course load, and the district placement guidelines.  Schools are encouraged to review and share data with students and parents regarding data points and student behaviors that indicate overall student success in advanced courses.  In considering student interests and overall course load, teachers may or may not recommend a student for an advanced, honors, or Advanced Placement course; however, a student who meets the criteria outlined in the district placement guidelines should not be prevented from taking the course.

In determining placement for students who fall short of the criteria, overall aptitude demonstrated by the preponderance of evidence from past performance and teacher feedback should be considered, always bearing in mind what is in the best interests of the student.  Parents may sign a waiver for placement in an advanced, honors, or Advanced Placement course if a student does not meet the district placement guidelines.  Parents should not be asked to sign a waiver if a student meets the district placement guidelines but is not recommended by the teacher.

In May, teachers will review the initial placement decision and additional spring data to make a final placement recommendation.

Please note that the initial placement guidelines do not include guidance for acceleration in English Language Arts and Mathematics.  Acceleration requires skipping curriculum, and the decision should be guided by the Continuous Achievement 36 Week Review Process in May.

Waivers are not available for middle school TAG classes as additional state funding is collected for TAG students enrolled in these courses.  Alternative placement criteria are applied by the TAG teacher to determine if an additional TAG class is appropriate for a TAG student.

For assistance in using the guidelines, please contact the appropriate Learning and Teaching content specialist:

* K-5 English Language Arts: Kerri-Ann Williams ([williamsk6@fultonschools.org](mailto:williamsk6@fultonschools.org))
* 6-12 English Language Arts: Kelley Webb ([webbk@fultonschools.org](mailto:webbk@fultonschools.org))
* Mathematics: Susan Baker ([bakers1@fultonschools.org](mailto:bakers1@fultonschools.org))
* Science: Steven Moody ([moodys@fultonschools.org](mailto:moodys@fultonschools.org))
* Social Studies: Crystal Flowers ([flowersc1@fultonschools.org](mailto:flowersc1@fultonschools.org))
* World Language: Jamie Patterson ([patterson@fultonschools.org](mailto:patterson@fultonschools.org))
* Talented and Gifted: Jessica Sevin ([sevin@fultonschools.org](mailto:sevin@fultonschools.org))

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| **Middle School Mathematics Initial Placement Guidelines for 2024-2025 School Year** | | | | | |
| **Current Grade Level** | **Student's Current Course** | **Student's Current Performance** | **Next Year Placement** | **Course Number** | |
| Grade 5 | Math 5 On-Level | Anticipated promotion to Grade 6 | Math 6 | 27.0210000 | |
| Students will only be considered for Math 6 Advanced in May through the continuous achievement process. | Math 6 Advanced | 27.0210040 | |
| Math 5 Enhanced | Semester 1 Average < 80% | Math 6 | 27.0210000 | |
| Semester 1 Average ≥ 80% | Math 6 Advanced | 27.0210040  TAG eligible 27.2210040 | |
| Students will only be considered for Math 7 in May through the continuous achievement process. | Math 7 | 27.0220000  TAG eligible 27.2220000 | |
| Math 6  (Grade 5 Accelerated Students) | Anticipated promotion to Grade 6 | Math 7 | 27.0220000  TAG eligible 27.2220000 | |
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| **Middle School ELA Initial Placement Guidelines for 2024-2025 School Year** | | | | |
| **Current Grade Level** | **Student's Current Course** | **Student's Current Performance** | **Next Year Placement** | **Course Number** |
| Grade 5 | Language Arts 5 On-Level | Anticipated promotion to Grade 6 | Language Arts 6 On-Level | 23.0110000 |
| Students will only be considered for Language Arts 6 Advanced in May through the continuous achievement process. | Language Arts 6 Advanced | 23.0110040  TAG Eligible 23.2110040 |
| Language Arts 5 Advanced | Semester 1 Average < 80% | Language Arts 6 On Level | 23.0110000 |
| Semester 1 Average ≥ 80% | Language Arts 6 Advanced | 23.0110040  TAG Eligible 23.2110040 |
| Language Arts 6  (5th grade Accelerated Students) | Anticipated promotion to Grade 6 | Language Arts 7 On-Level | 23.0120000  TAG eligible 23.2120000 |
| Students will only be considered for Language Arts 7 Advanced in May through the continuous achievement process. | Language Arts 7 Advanced | 23.0120040  TAG eligible 23.2120040 |

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| **Middle School Reading and World Language Initial Placement Guidelines for 2023-2024 School Year** | | | | |
| **Current Grade Level** | **Student's Current Course** | **Student's Current Performance** | **Next Year Placement** | **Course Number** |
| Grade 5 | Reading 5 On-Level | i-Ready < 35%ile Mid-Year NPR **OR** Below Grade Level on GMAS Reading Indicator for Grade 4 | Reading 6 | 23.0140000  Remedial 23.1140000 |
| At/Above Grade Level on GMAS Reading Indicator for Grade 4 **AND** Grade 5 Reading teacher recommendation | Grade 6 World Language Course | French - 60.0070000  Japanese - 62.0270000  Spanish - 60.0670000  Spanish for Native Speakers – 60.0670008 |
| Reading 5 Advanced | i-Ready < 35%ile Mid-Year NPR **OR** Below Grade Level on GMAS Reading Indicator for Grade 4 | Reading 6 | 23.0140000  Remedial 23.1140000 |
| At/Above Grade Level on GMAS Reading Indicator for Grade 4 **AND** Grade 5 Reading teacher recommendation | Grade 6 World Language Course | French - 60.0070000  Japanese - 62.0270000  Spanish - 60.0670000  Spanish for Native Speakers – 60.0670008 |
| Reading 6 Accelerated | At/Above Grade Level on GMAS Reading Indicator for Grade 4 **AND** Grade 5 Reading teacher recommendation | Grade 6 World Language Course | French - 60.0070000  Japanese - 62.0270000  Spanish - 60.0670000  Spanish for Native Speakers – 60.0670008 |

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| **Middle School Science Initial Placement Guidelines for 2024-2025 School Year** | | | | | |
| **Current Grade Level** | **Student's Current Course** | **Student's Current Performance** | **Next Year Placement** | **Course Number** | |
| Grade 5 | Science 5 | Anticipated promotion to Grade 6  \* See TAG Procedures Manual for alternate placement guidelines | Earth Science | 40.0610000 | |
| Semester 1 Average ≥ 90% **AND** Science Fall Interim ≥ 90% **AND** Teacher Recommendation (5th grade Science Teacher) | Advanced Earth Science | 40.0610040 | |
| TAG eligible **AND** Semester 1 Average ≥ 90% **AND** Science Fall Interim ≥ 90% **AND** Teacher Recommendation (5th grade Science Teacher)  \* Non-gifted students placed into mixed model classroom with TAG students must meet the same criteria as TAG students. | TAG Earth Science | Tag Eligible 40.2610000 | |
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| **Middle School Social Studies Initial Placement Guidelines for 2024-2025 School Year** | | | | |
| **Current Grade Level** | **Student's Current Course** | **Student's Current Performance** | **Next Year Placement** | **Course Number** |
| Grade 5 | Social Studies 5 | Anticipated promotion to Grade 6   * See TAG Procedures Manual for alternate placement guidelines | Social Studies 6 | 45.0070000 |
| Semester 1 Average ≥ 90% **AND** i-Ready Comprehension of Informational Text at “late 5th” during the December Administration **AND** Teacher Recommendation | Advanced Social Studies 6 | 45.0070040 |
| Eligible for TAG **AND** Semester 1 Average ≥ 90% **AND** i-Ready Comprehension of Informational Text at “late 5th” during the December Administration **AND** Teacher Recommendation  \* See TAG Procedures Manual for alternate placement guidelines  \* Non-gifted students placed into mixed model classroom with TAG students must meet the same criteria as TAG students. | TAG Social Studies 6 | TAG Eligible 45.2070000 |
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