

High School Curriculum Handbook 2024 – 2025



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Planning Ahead - College and Career Ready

The global economy and the skills needed for the 21st century require a rigorous and well-rounded K-12 education. The old method of separating students into "college bound" and "work bound" is no longer sufficient in the world of education. Students need to know more and be better equipped to apply that knowledge in order to tackle increasingly complex issues and problems. Fulton schools are addressing this need through the increase of rigor and critical thinking skills for all students.

Curriculum in Fulton County Schools

Curriculum is defined as a plan for learning. It encompasses all the learning experiences a student encounters under the guidance of the school. The curriculum in Fulton County Schools focuses on the development and application of skills and knowledge as identified by the state of Georgia, national curriculum standards, and local system objectives. Interactive learning and hands-on-experience are central to the Board of Education's vision for the effective delivery of instruction and increased emphasis on higher academic achievement for all children.

Semester System

Fulton County high schools operate on a semester system. Two semesters make up the regular academic year. At the end of the semester, students receive a final grade and credit for each course successfully completed. Most courses carry one-half unit credit per semester and the normal load is six courses. Some courses are two-period blocks and receive one unit credit per semester.

Some disciplines such as science, language arts and mathematics usually cover an entire year but are divided into year-long sequence or semester sequence. Students who take biology, for example, earn one half unit per semester. Some courses, however, are individually designed and may or may not be part of a year-long sequence.

Two alternatives to the year-long approach are the Block Schedule and Modified Block Schedule. On a Block Schedule, students take four 90-minute courses for 18 weeks, earning one unit for each course or a combination of courses. After completing the first term of 18 weeks, students begin a second term and take four additional courses. Under this schedule, students can earn up to eight units each year. Students earn a final grade and credit for each course taken at the end of each nine-week session. Currently, Tri-Cities High School is the only high school utilizing a block schedule. A Modified Block Schedule may be any combination of traditional course periods and Block Schedule class periods.

The credits earned on alternative schedules may exceed the 23 units indicated in this handbook. Transitioning between block and traditional schedule schools may affect the credits a student can earn in that year, so careful investigation should be made before making such a move.

Placement Procedure

Recommendations concerning instructional placement and progress of students are the responsibility of the local teacher and other professional staff directly involved with the students. The final decision concerning placement, however, rests with the principal. Promotion and retention at the high school level follow the guidelines listed below:

- Students in high school progress toward graduation on a course-by-course basis. Students take courses based upon academic performance, academic needs, graduation requirements and previous credits earned.
- A student entering high school in Fulton County is assigned a graduation year. The graduation requirements in effect at the time of entrance apply for the student's entire high school career.

- Students stay with their entering class for all school activities, including those related to courses, for their freshman year only. The number of credits earned by the student determines assignments beyond the freshman year.
- A student remains a freshman until such time that he/she earns **five credits to be a sophomore, 11 credits to be a junior, and 17 credits to be a senior.**
- Students who do not complete high school within the traditional four years attend a conference including the student, parent(s)/guardian(s) and appropriate school staff, and are assigned to the open campus education program if this placement is deemed to be in the best interest of the student.
- At the end of the junior year, each high school provides notification by registered U.S. mail to the parent(s)/guardian(s) of any student who may not graduate the following year. Additional written notification is required at the end of the first semester of the student's senior year. Copies of the notification are kept in the counselor's office and sent to the student and parent(s)/guardian(s).

Grading

Teachers use a variety of ongoing, developmentally appropriate methods to measure student progress such as tests, exams, rubrics, quizzes, projects, reports, homework, class participation and other assignments. Teachers should use their own judgment in determining how much weight to give each graded activity.

Grades are based on the individual student's mastery of state standards for the grade level and/or course in which the student is currently placed, subject to any Individual Education Plan (IEP). Grades should not be determined by a bell curve. Academic grades should not be lowered as a result of unsatisfactory conduct except in cases of cheating.

Student grades will be determined by using the following categories:

- Major: An assignment or assessment that is cumulative in nature, measuring multiple standards/skills, and/or when there is a significant amount of dedicated instructional time devoted to the content being assessed.
- Minor: An assignment or assessment that measures an individual standard or subset of standards/skills within a unit and/or when there is a small amount of dedicated instructional time devoted to the content being assessed.
- Practice: Daily assignments, observations, and/or engagement activities given in class or for homework given to students to build and/or remediate skills. Practice has a maximum weight of 10 percent in the grade book.

Fulton County Schools operate on a semester system with two semesters making up the regular academic year. Teachers frequently report student progress using a variety of informal methods such as class progress reports and phone calls. Student progress is reported formally using Progress Reports and Report Cards. Interim reports provide a "snap-shot" in time every 4.5 weeks. Report cards are issued after the completion of 18 weeks, and report final grades and credits earned.

Conferences are scheduled as needed to discuss progress with parents. Teachers also regularly communicate with parents, using such means as telephone calls, written notes, emails, and/or examples of student work.

A student's teacher or the school must notify the parent/guardian and provide the opportunity for an individual conference in person, virtually, or by telephone when a student is:

- In danger of not meeting expectations and/or their course average goes below a 70
- In danger of retention and/or will be recommended for retention
- In danger of receiving an incomplete for the quarter and/or the course
- In danger of not graduating or failing a class required for graduation
- Recommended to change a class or placement level

Grading Scale

As mandated by the state, students earn numeric grades. Passing grades are 70 and above. A cumulative numeric average will be computed at the end of every semester. For scholarship and college entrance requirements the scale shown below appears at the bottom of each student's transcript. Students enrolled in Advanced Placement, Honors, International Baccalaureate and joint enrollment/postsecondary options courses receive an additional seven points to be added to a passing final grade. Parents and students should note that the HOPE state scholarship program recalculates grade point averages (GPA) using a different weighting system. For more information about GPA calculation for HOPE, please visit

Listed in the chart below are the academic symbols used for the Report Card and the Interim Progress Reports.

	Report Card	Non-Academic Skills
Grades 9 -12	A 90 and Above B 80-89 C 70-79 F Below 70 W/(1-100) Withdrawn P/F Pass or Fail NG No grade I Incomplete CR Credit NC Non-Credit	Self-Direction Collaboration Problem Solving Work Habits
Grades 9 – 12	.5 credit for each semester of course passed	No credit awarded

Recovery

Opportunities designed to allow students to recover from a low or failing cumulative grade will be allowed when all work required to date has been completed and the student has demonstrated a legitimate effort to meet all course requirements including attendance. Students should contact the teacher concerning recovery opportunities. Teachers are expected to establish a reasonable time period for recovery work to be completed during the semester. All recovery work must be directly related to course objectives and must be completed ten school days prior to the end of the semester. Teachers will determine when and how students with extenuating circumstances may improve their grades.

Credit for High School Courses Taken in Middle School

Students who take high school English/Language arts, science, math, and/or two years of the same world language in middle school may receive unit credit toward their high school requirements. It takes two years of the same world language in middle school to equate to one unit of high school world language.

Eligibility for Graduation

A student shall become eligible for graduation upon meeting the following criteria:

- ✓ 23 units of appropriate credit have been completed
- ✓ State assessment requirements have been met
- ✓ Attendance requirements have been met

Graduation Requirements

The Georgia Board of Education establishes graduation requirements for all students in public schools. The Fulton County School System bases its requirements on the state requirements. Local school systems must meet all state requirements; however, they may go beyond those requirements. Fulton County

School Board Policy details the graduation requirements based on the year that the students enter ninth grade. Here is a link to board policy:

Below is an easy reference chart for your use in determining your student's graduation requirements.

Board Policy		Policy Impact	Graduation Date
IHF (1)	Graduation Requirements: Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2008 thru 2011	Only Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2008 thru 2011	4 Year Graduation in 2012 thru 2015
IHF (2)	Graduation Requirements: Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2012	Only Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2012	4 Year Graduation in 2016
IHF (3)	Graduation Requirements: Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2013 and 2014	Only Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2013 and 2014	4 Year Graduation in 2017 and 2018
IHF (4)	Graduation Requirements: Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2015	Only Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2015	4 Year Graduation in 2019
IHF (5)	Graduation Requirements: Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2016	Only Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2016	4 Year Graduation in 2025
IHF (6)	Graduation Requirements: Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2022 and Beyond	Only Students Entering 9 th Grade in 2022 & Beyond	4 Year Graduation in 2026 and Beyond

Course Requirement Chart

The following units are required under the new graduation rule for students entering ninth grade in fall of 2022 and beyond:

Subject	Credit Requirement	Course Requirement
English	4	9 th Literature American Literature Plus 2 additional English Credits (10 th Lit or World Lit, Multi-Cultural) * Student cannot earn World Lit credit in the 10 th grade year and 12 th grade year.
Math	4	Algebra Concepts & Connections Geometry Concepts & Connections Advanced Algebra Concepts & Connections Plus, one additional Math Credit
Science	4	Biology Physical Science or Physics Chemistry, Earth Science, or Environmental Science Plus, one additional Science Credit
Social Studies	3	American Government (0.5 credit) World History US History Personal Finance & Economics (0.5 credit)
Career Tech/ World Language/ Fine Art	3	Students must take a minimum of 3 credits in CTAE, Fine Arts or World Language. *Students seeking admission to a four-year college or university in Georgia must take a minimum of 2 units of the same language.
Health/Personal Fitness	1	Health (0.5 credit) Personal Fitness (0.5 credit)
Electives	4	4 additional credits are required from the subject areas listed above
Total	23	

Types of Diplomas

A. High School Diploma Option A

The document awarded to students certifying that they have satisfied attendance requirements, unit requirements, and the state assessment requirements as referenced in [Rule 160-3-1-.07 Testing Programs - Student Assessment](#).

B. High School Diploma Option B

High School Diploma Option B (also known as SB2) offers qualified students an alternate path to high school graduation. Students choose to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and a college Associate Degree, or a Technical Diploma, or two (2) Technical Certificates of Credit in a specific career pathway. The Dual Enrollment Program 30 credit hour cap applies. See O.C.G.A. 20-2-149-.2 for more information.

C. High School Certificate

The document awarded to students who do not complete all of the criteria for a diploma or who have not passed the state assessment requirements as referenced in [Rule 160-3-1-.07 Testing Programs – Student Assessment](#), but who have earned 23 units.

D. Diplomas for Exceptional Education

Alternate Diploma

Students with significant cognitive disabilities are those with significant intellectual disabilities or intellectual disabilities concurrent with motor, sensory or emotional/behavioral disabilities who require substantial adaptations and support to access the general curriculum and require additional instruction focused on relevant life skills and participate in the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA).

Alternate Diplomas are awarded to students with the most significant cognitive disabilities who were assessed using the alternate assessment aligned to alternate academic achievement. While this diploma is standards-based and aligned with the state requirements for the regular high school diploma, it is not a regular high school diploma. Criteria to be eligible for this diploma referenced in [Rule 160-4-2-.48 High School Graduation Requirements](#).

Special Education Diploma

Special Education Diplomas are awarded to students with disabilities assigned to a special education program who have not met the state assessment requirements referenced in [Rule 160-3-1-.07 Testing Programs - Student Assessment](#) or who have not completed all of the requirements for a high school diploma but who have nevertheless completed their IEP.

Waiver of Requirements

The total number of required unit credits (23) cannot be waived.

Graduation Exercises

A student will be allowed to participate in graduation exercises after all requirements for a High School Diploma or a Special Education Diploma have been met.

Georgia Board of Regents' Admission Standards for Graduating Class of 2012 and Beyond

The Board of Regents, in 2007, approved new required high school curriculum (RHSC) for students who will enter University System of Georgia (USG) institutions in 2012 or later. Students will be required to present a transcript that includes four units of language arts, four units of mathematics, four units of science, three units of social studies, and two units of the same world language. In mathematics, students who select a fourth math that is not pre-calculus or higher may have limited post-secondary options. Parents and students should evaluate specific admission requirements prior to selecting a fourth math credit.

In addition to the 17 units of the required high school curriculum (RHSC), students seeking admission to research or comprehensive universities, will be considered for admission based on the “Freshman Index (FI)” —a formula using the applicant’s SAT or ACT test scores and high school grade point average—will be used to help determine a student’s readiness for college work. For more information visit www.usg.edu.

HOPE Scholarship Eligibility

Current information about HOPE scholarship eligibility can be found at www.gafutures.org.

School Counseling

Professional School Counselors provide guidance throughout a student’s high school career. Their work impacts student achievement through academic, social/personal, and career counseling services. Students receive the services via individual counseling, group counseling, classroom guidance, transition guidance, and consultation. Graduation Coaches’ primary responsibility is to identify at-risk students and to help them succeed in school by keeping them on track academically before they consider dropping out. Data is used to both evaluate and improve guidance and counseling services.

Diploma Seals

High schools in the state of Georgia have the opportunity to apply to become eligible to award the Fine Arts Diploma Seal and/or the International Skills Diploma Seal. For schools that elect to participate, interested students are submitted to state for qualifying. If you are interested in finding out more about a high school’s status, please contact the counselling department.

Fine Arts Diploma Seal

The Fine Arts Diploma Seal is awarded to graduating high school students who complete a Georgia Fine Arts Pathway and engage in creative industry focus courses, extracurricular activities, and experiences that foster fine arts mastery. The diploma seal is a signal to employers and higher education institutions that a student is prepared to participate in the creative economy.

International Skills Diploma Seal

In today’s global marketplace, it is important for students to acquire the interdisciplinary skills they need to be globally competent and competitive. The International Skills Diploma Seal is awarded to graduating high school students who complete an international education curriculum and engage in extracurricular activities and experiences that foster the achievement of global competencies. It is a signal to employers and higher education institutions that a student is prepared to participate in the global economy.

Career Ready Diploma Seal

The Career Ready Diploma Seal is awarded to graduating high school students who complete a series of accomplishments as outlined and engage in activities, courses, and experiences that foster career readiness. The diploma seal is a signal to employers that a student is prepared to participate in the workforce.

Georgia Seal of Biliteracy

The Georgia Seal of Biliteracy recognizes high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more languages in addition to English.

Assessment Programs

NATIONAL TESTING

Fulton County Schools participates in national testing programs such as the College Board SAT, the American College Testing Program (ACT), and others administered primarily to high school juniors and seniors. Most colleges use these test scores as a criterion for admission. Students who expect to attend postsecondary institutions should prepare for these admissions tests and for their postsecondary work by taking a strong academic program in high school.

- PSAT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) - administered October 8, 2024 and/or October 9, 2024 (school's choice) to all students in 9th, 10th and 11th grades. Students who expect to take the SAT gain valuable experience through taking the PSAT. Funding is provided for all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students. Scores of 11th grade students determine eligibility for National Merit Scholarships.
- SAT – an optional SAT administration is available on October 8, 2024 and/or October 9, 2024 (school's choice) to students in 12th grade. In addition, the test is usually administered several times each year at sites designated by the testing company. Students are encouraged to take the SAT in the spring of their junior year and again in the fall of their senior year. Students should determine if colleges to which they are applying require the SAT.
- ACT – an optional ACT administration is available to all FCS juniors on March 6, 2025. In addition, the test is administered five times each year at sites designated by the testing company. College-bound students should determine if colleges to which they are applying require the ACT. If so, they are encouraged to take this test in the spring of their junior year.
- Advanced Placement Exam - administered in May for college placement. Students who take and pass AP courses should plan to take the AP exam. Funding is provided.

STATE TESTING

Georgia Milestones

The **Georgia Milestones Assessment System** is administered each year in one high school course per content area (Algebra I, Biology, 11th Grade Lit/Comp, US History). The purpose of the assessments is to provide a valid measure of student achievement of the rigorous state content standards, and provide a clear indication of the student's preparedness for the next educational level. The assessments require students to utilize multiple types of responses, or answers, to questions or prompts: selected responses (multiple choice items), constructed responses, extended responses, and technology enhanced items.

For students with disabilities, each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines how the student shall participate in Georgia's student assessment program. If a student's IEP team determines that a student cannot meaningfully access the Georgia Milestones Assessment System, even with maximum appropriate accommodations, then the student will participate in the Georgia Alternate Assessment (GAA 2.0).

Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 (GAA)

The GAA 2.0 is designed to ensure that students with significant cognitive disabilities are provided access to the state academic content standards and given the opportunity to demonstrate achievement of the knowledge, concepts, and skills inherent in the standards. Unlike the GAA, the GAA 2.0 is not a portfolio-based assessment. Thus, it will measure students' achievement and not progress. The GAA 2.0 will be administered to all eligible students in Grade 11. Students in Grade 11 will be assessed in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

ACCESS for ELLs

ACCESS for ELLs is administered, annually, to all English learners in Georgia. ACCESS for ELLs is a standards-based, criterion referenced English language proficiency test designed to measure English learners' social and academic proficiency in English. It assesses social and instructional English as well as the language associated with language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies within the school context across the four language domains. ACCESS for ELLs meets the federal requirements that mandates require states to evaluate EL students in grades K through 12 on their progress in learning to speak English. ACCESS for ELLs is used to determine the English language proficiency levels and progress of ELs in the domains of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

DISTRICT TESTING

MAP Growth

The NWEA MAP assessment is a computer-adaptive test that measures skills in Reading and Math. MAP is used as a universal screener and a nationally normed assessment. As students answer questions correctly or incorrectly, the test adjusts the level of difficulty based on individual performance. Select students in grades 9-12 may take MAP one to two times a year.

Teachers can use the results to help inform instruction, personalize learning, and monitor the growth of individual students. Administrators can use the results to help see the performance and progress of a grade level, school, or the entire district. MAP Growth is not used as a part of a student's grade. MAP Growth can be used as a criterion for TAG eligibility.

***All 2024-25 testing windows are subject to change based on GaDOE policy and requirements.*

High School Testing Windows		
Georgia Milestones End of Course (EOC)	Participating courses to be determined	April 28 – May 2, 2025
Georgia Alternate Assessment	Grades 11 students with significant cognitive disabilities	March 24 – April 25, 2025
ACCESS for ELLs	Grades 9-12 English learners	January 15 – February 28, 2025
MAP Growth	Select students in grades 9-12	August 12 – August 23, 2024 January 7- January 17, 2025

For more information on assessments in Fulton County Schools, visit the Assessment website at <https://www.fultonschools.org/assessment>.

Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

Multi-tiered System of Supports is a framework that integrates data-driven problem-solving and evidence-based interventions to address academic, social, emotional, and behavioral concerns for all students. As a prevention framework,

What are the essential components of a Multi-tiered System of Supports?

- Universal (district-wide) screening of academics to determine which students need intervention
- A multi-level prevention system of increasingly intense evidence-based interventions that are matched to student needs
- Progress monitoring tools and processes to assess and analyze students' responses to aligned interventions
- Data-based decision making occurring at all levels with screening and progress monitoring data are used as primary sources to determine movement within tiers

- Infrastructure that includes the mechanisms that operationalize the essential components of MTSS and supports leadership, professional learning, teaming, and family/community engagement

What are the Three Tiers of a Multi-level Prevention System in MTSS?

Tier 1 – All students receive standards-based instruction matched to their readiness level in the general education classroom. Behavioral expectations are also specifically taught and reinforced in this tier. Schools will assess all students to determine what students are at-risk for not meeting grade level appropriate skills.

Tier 2 –Some students will be identified with skill gaps in reading, math, or behavior. In Tier 2, identified students will receive targeted intervention in their specific area of weakness. Progress monitoring data collection occurs at a set pace to assess effectiveness of the selected intervention.

Tier 3 – Students identified as having significant skill weaknesses and students who do not respond to targeted intervention in Tier 2 will participate in intensive intervention in Tier 3. Data collection occurs more frequently to ensure timely adjustments in intervention implementation. Students who receive tier 3 interventions will have a Student Support Team (SST), an interdisciplinary group of general educators who meet at consistent intervals to review progress monitoring data and make data-based decisions on continuing, changing, or ceasing the intervention.

How Can Parents Help? (Georgia Department of Education, 2009)

Parents are a critical partner in the continual success of the learning in school. Active participation is the key. Read the standards for your child's grade or course. Ask for ways you can help at home to improve your child's school performance. Participate in parent conferences and meetings related to overall progress in the standards and intervention participation. Parents are invited members of a child's SST and should be included in the development of the intervention plan and attend SST meetings.

English/Language Arts

Philosophy

Whether reading is used to enter into the imaginative world of fiction; learn from academic texts; meet workplace demands; acquire insight and knowledge about people, places, and things; or understand a graphic on an Internet website; readers adapt their skills and strategies to meet the comprehension demands of a particular task at hand. Fulton County Schools believe that students' literacy skills and strategies can be cultivated to do so in all content areas. Literacy-rich classrooms integrate the teaching of disciplinary literacy skills and strategies into real-world contexts and give students opportunities to read and respond critically to text; write creatively, expressively, and analytically; develop effective oral language skills; investigate and present topics of interest using research methods; and use media and technology to communicate for a variety of purposes.

Goals

Through our English/language arts program, the learner will

- communicate and interact effectively with others in the world;
- think, interpret, create, and respond critically in a variety of settings to a myriad of print and non-print text; and
- access, use, and produce multiple forms of media, information, and knowledge in all content areas

The curriculum is comprised of the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) and focuses on teaching students literacy. In striving to improve student achievement and to provide a high-quality education for

all students in Fulton County, we are committed to the reading and writing process. In order to prepare students to be college and career ready, high school students experience wide and deep reading of literature and nonfiction of steadily increasing sophistication in the English Language Arts classroom. Students learn to evaluate intricate arguments and surmount the challenges posed by complex written materials independently and confidently. They also write and participate in a variety of conversations in which they assert and defend claims to show what they know about a subject using appropriate examples and evidence.

GSE 9-12 Strands/Standard Framework
Strand: Reading for Literature (RL)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Ideas and Details: RL1, RL2, RL3 • Craft and Structure: RL4, RL5, RL6 • Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: RL7, RL9 • Range of Reading/Text Complexity: RL10
Strand: Reading for Information (RI)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Ideas and Details: RI1, RI2, RI3 • Craft and Structure: RI4, RI5, RI6 • Integration of Knowledge and Ideas: RI7, RI8, RI9 • Range of Reading/Text Complexity: RI10
Strand: Writing (W)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text Types and Purposes: W1, W2, W3 • Production/Distribution: W4, W5, W6 • Research/Present Knowledge: W7, W8, W9 • Range of Writing: W10
Strand: Speaking and Listening (SL)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension and Collaboration: SL1, SL2, SL3 • Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: SL4, SL5, SL6
Strand: Language (L)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conventions of Standard English: L1, L2 • Knowledge of Language: L3 • Vocabulary Acquisition and Use: L4, L5, L6

Requirements

All high school students are required to complete four units of English/Language Arts and to sit for one End-of-Course Test: American Literature/Composition. Most courses are available on two levels. On-level courses meet the needs of most students and are approved for the college preparatory course of study. Honors classes, also approved for the college preparatory course of study, are appropriate for students who have a past record of high achievement in English and reading.

Mathematics

Philosophy

Mathematics permeates all sectors of life and occupies a well-established position in curriculum and instruction. Schools must assume responsibility for empowering students with the mathematical skills necessary for functioning in and contributing to today's complex society. Instruction should emphasize the application of mathematics to real world problems; allow the use of calculators and computers as tools in problem-solving and allow students to develop their own mathematical understanding using concrete materials.

Goals

The goals of the 9-12 mathematics program are to:

- * Meet the needs of individual students
- * Build students' appreciation of mathematics and its relationship to other disciplines
- * Promote students' confidence in their own mathematical abilities
- * Assist students in becoming mathematical problem-solvers
- * Provide opportunities for students to communicate their ideas about mathematics
- * Develop students' mathematical reasoning skills
- * Enable students to utilize calculators and computers as problem-solving tools
- * Encourage participation in learning with others
- * Prepare students for success in their post-secondary pursuits
- * Enable parents to understand and support the program

Curriculum Content for High School Mathematics

Fulton County Schools implements Georgia's K-12 Mathematics Standards. The vision for this mathematics curriculum is achieving a balance among concepts, skills, and problem solving. Teachers will ask purposeful questions that draw out evidence of student thinking and motivate students to persevere in their problem-solving process. Teachers strive to create student-centered classrooms where students engage in rich mathematical tasks and experiences that create mathematical discussions among students. The mathematics curriculum stresses rigorous concept development, presents realistic and relevant applications, and keeps a strong emphasis on computational skills. Georgia's K-12 Mathematics Standards are organized into content standards and mathematical practices. The content standards for high school are organized into big ideas: Data and Statistical Reasoning, Numerical Reasoning, Patterning and Algebraic Reasoning, Functional and Graphical Reasoning, Geometric and Spatial Reasoning, and Probabilistic Reasoning. The mathematical practices are an essential part of learning for all students. Students will implement the practices as a way to acquire and use content knowledge. The eight mathematical practices emphasize problem solving, reasoning, representations, modeling, mathematical connections and communication. These practices are consistent throughout the K-12 Mathematics Curriculum.

Courses

Algebra: Concepts and Connections

Co-Requisite Algebra Support for Algebra: Concepts and Connections

Geometry: Concepts and Connections

Co-Requisite Geometry Support for Geometry: Concepts and Connections

Advanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections

Co-Requisite Advanced Algebra Support for Advanced Algebra: Concepts and Connections

Enhanced Advanced Algebra and AP Precalculus

AP Precalculus

Precalculus

Calculus

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

AP Statistics

Statistical Reasoning

Advanced Mathematical Decision Making

College Readiness Mathematics

Linear Algebra with Computer Science Applications

Mathematics of Industry and Government

Multivariable Calculus II/III Distance Learning with Georgia Tech

(for information, please contact Georgia Tech Admission office by phone at 404-894-4154 or go to the web site <http://admiss.gatech.edu/dualenrollment/distance-math>)

Science

Philosophy

The Georgia Standards of Excellence in Science focus on 3-Dimensional learning which incorporates science content, crosscutting concepts, and science & engineering practices as outlined in *A Framework for K-12 Science Education (2011)*. Notable features of the standards include student engagement in science and engineering practices such as designing and carrying out investigations, developing and using models, analyzing data, and constructing arguments. Each standard begins with the science practice, “obtain, evaluate and communicate” which emphasizes the importance of students gathering, reasoning, and communicating about scientific concepts and data. Observable, natural phenomena such as floating magnets, weather balloons, or a sweating soda can for example, are used to anchor units of study; anchoring learning in explaining phenomena supports student agency for wanting to build science and engineering knowledge. Fulton County believes every aspect of science education encountered by students should enhance their understanding of science; enabling them to become environmentally, scientifically, and technologically literate citizens.



Goals

Fulton County Schools' goals for science education are consistent with those that underlie *A Framework for K-12 Science Education (2011)* and the Georgia Standards of Excellence. They are designed to provide foundational knowledge and skills for all students to develop proficiency in science.

- Engage and explore scientific concepts through science and engineering practices
- Experience the richness and excitement of knowing about and understanding the natural world
- Use appropriate habits of mind and understandings of the nature of science and scientific principles in making personal decisions
- Engage intelligently in public discourse and debate about matters of scientific and technological concern, and
- Increase their economic productivity through their knowledge, understanding, and skills as a scientifically literate person in their careers.

Graduation Requirements

Since 2008-2009, four units of credit in science shall be required of all students, including:

- one full unit of Biology
- one unit of either Physical Science or Physics
- one unit of either Chemistry, Earth Systems, Environmental Science or an AP/IB course, and
- one additional science unit. The fourth science unit may be used to meet both the science and elective requirements.

Any AP/IB science course may be substituted for the appropriate courses listed above.

Certain CTAE courses can also be considered fourth science credit courses. Please reference your school's course catalog to determine your school's science course offerings.

High School Overview

At each grade level, content core ideas are integrated with science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts. The science and engineering practices, content, and crosscutting concepts are used throughout K-12 science courses and build towards a progressively deeper understanding of the dimensions as students' progress through the years. Hands-on, student-centered, and inquiry-based approaches should be the emphasis of instruction.

3-Dimensions of Science	
<p style="text-align: center;">Science & Engineering Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking questions and defining problems • Developing and using models • Planning and carrying out investigations • Analyzing and interpreting data • Using mathematics and information & computer technology • Developing explanations and designing solutions • Engaging in argument from evidence • Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information 	<p style="text-align: center;">Crosscutting Concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patterns • Cause and effect • Scale, proportion, and quantity • Systems and system model • Energy and matter • Structure and function • Stability and change <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Crosscutting concepts are used to help scientists organize scientific information.</i></p>
Science Content Core Ideas	
Astronomy	This course will provide the student with an introduction to the concepts of modern astronomy, the origin and history of the Universe, and the formation of the Earth and the solar system. Students will compare the Earth's properties with those of the other planets and explore how the heavens have influenced human thought and action. The course gives a description of astronomical phenomena using the laws of physics. The course treats many standard topics including planets, stars, the Milky Way and other galaxies, and black holes. Laboratory exercises include experiments in light properties, measurement of radiation from celestial sources, and observations at local observatories and/or planetariums.
Biology	Students explore biological science by engaging in science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to better understand cellular structure and the role these structures play in living cells; develop an understanding of the role bio-macromolecules to life processes; analyze how genetic information is passed on to offspring and how these mechanisms lead to diversity of species; use cladograms and phylogenetic trees to determine relationships among major groups of organisms; and recognize the role of the theory of evolution in explaining how the diversity observed within species has led to the diversity of life across species through a process of descent with adaptive modification.
Chemistry	Students explore chemical science by engaging in science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to better understand more abstract concepts such as the structure of atoms, structure and properties of matter, the conservation and interaction of energy and matter, and the use of Kinetic Molecular Theory to model atomic and molecular motion in chemical and physical processes; use the periodic table to help with the identification of elements with particular properties, recognize patterns that lead to explain chemical reactivity and bond formation; apply the IUPAC nomenclature in order to predict chemical names for ionic (binary and ternary), acidic, and inorganic covalent compounds, and conduct experiments to manipulate factors that affect chemical reactions.
Earth Systems	Students explore earth science by engaging in science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to better understand Earth systems – the atmosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere, and biosphere – interact through time to produce the Earth's landscapes, ecology, and resources. These standards engage the students in constructing explanations of phenomena fundamental to the sciences of geology and physical geography, including the early history of the Earth, plate tectonics, landform evolution, the Earth's geologic record, weather and climate, and the history of life on Earth. Instruction should focus on development of scientific explanations, rather than mere descriptions of phenomena. Case studies, laboratory exercises, maps, and data analysis should be integrated into units. Special attention should be paid to topics of current interest (e.g., recent earthquakes, tsunamis, global warming, price of resources) and to potential careers in the geosciences.
Environmental Science	Students explore environmental science by engaging in science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to better understand the many components of our environment, including the human impact on our planet. Students investigate the flow of energy and cycling of matter within ecosystems, and evaluate types, availability, allocation, and sustainability of energy resources. Instruction should focus on student data collection and analysis from field and

	laboratory experiences. Some concepts are global; in those cases, interpretation of global data sets from scientific sources is strongly recommended.
Forensic Science	The Forensic Science Georgia Standards of Excellence are designed to build upon science concepts from previous courses and apply science to the investigation of crime scenes. Students will learn the scientific protocols for analyzing a crime scene, chemical and physical separation methods to isolate and identify materials, how to analyze biological evidence, and the criminal use of tools, including impressions from firearms, tool marks, arson, and explosive evidence.
Human Anatomy & Physiology	Human anatomy and physiology is designed to continue student investigations that began in grades K-8 and high school biology. This curriculum is extensively performance and laboratory based. It integrates the study of the structures and functions of the human body, however rather than focusing on distinct anatomical and physiological systems (respiratory, nervous, etc.) instruction should focus on the essential requirements for life. Areas of study include organization of the body; protection, support and movement; providing internal coordination and regulation; processing and transporting; and reproduction, growth and development. Whenever possible, careers related to medicine, research, healthcare and modern medical technology should be emphasized throughout the curriculum. Case studies concerning diseases, disorders and ailments (i.e. real-life applications) should be emphasized.
Physical Science	Students explore physical science by engaging in science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to better understand abstract concepts such as the conceptualization of the structure of atoms and the role they play in determining the properties of materials, motion and forces, the conservation of energy and matter, wave behavior, electricity, and the relationship between electricity and magnetism; the idea of radioactive decay is limited to the understanding of whole half-lives and how a constant proportional rate of decay is consistent with declining measures that only gradually approach to zero.
Physics	Students explore physical science by engaging in science and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to better understand more abstract concepts such as nuclear decay processes, interactions of matter and energy, velocity, acceleration, force, energy, momentum, properties and interactions of matter, electromagnetic and mechanical waves, and electricity, magnetism and their interactions. Students investigate physics concepts through experiences in laboratories and field work using the science and engineering practices.
Zoology	In this course, students will recognize key features of the major body plans that have evolved in animals and how those body plans have changed over time resulting in the diversity of animals that are evident today. In addition to classification and recognition, this course teaches students about the anatomical and physiological characteristics of animals. These characteristics relate to how an animal functions and can help students see the connections uniting animal groups. An understanding of form and function allows students to study how animals have evolved over time and to relate animals to their role in an ecosystem. Finally, students will develop an understanding that all living things are interconnected. Students should realize that the worldwide activities of humans can contribute to animal diversity both positively and negatively. It should also be understood that humans are dependent on animal species for advances in medicine, ecosystem maintenance, and food supply.

Science Courses

Biology	Human Anatomy/Physiology	Physical Science
Biology H	Human Anatomy/Physiology H	Physics
AP Biology	Chemistry	AP Physics 1
IB Biology	Chemistry H	AP Physics 2
Environmental Science	AP Chemistry	AP Physics C – Mechanics
AP Environmental Science	IB Chemistry	AP Physics C – Electricity & Magnetism
IB Environmental Science	Astronomy	IB Physics
Earth Systems	Zoology	Forensic Science

Social Studies

Philosophy

The purpose of the Fulton County School System's social studies curriculum is to prepare students to become citizens who participate in a democratic society in an increasingly interdependent world. Through social studies education students should acquire a continuing interest in their society; develop a respect for the dignity and worth of all persons; and achieve the depth of understanding, the loyalty to democratic ideas, and the skills necessary to accept responsibilities and rights of citizenship.



As a part of the social studies program, students are provided with learning opportunities that enable them to grow in their ability to think clearly and to integrate significant facts, concepts and generalizations from history and the social sciences into their own experiences. Students develop useful skills for obtaining knowledge, devising questions and engaging in problem-solving techniques through active involvement in the curriculum. Equally important, they should learn how to analyze issues from multiple perspectives and to test the validity of ideas apart from the sources of those ideas. Students are also encouraged to develop connections among ideas and events, both past and present that will promote cooperative and constructive solutions of problems and issues.

Goals

Through the Social Studies high school program in Fulton County Schools, the learner will:

- Increase knowledge of the world and promote greater awareness of its diverse ethnic and cultural elements;
- Reinforce the understanding of how a highly-differentiated U.S. society maintains cohesion through adherence to the principles found in the Constitution and Bill of Rights;
- Address concerns related to their social origins; and
- Acquire the skills, knowledge, and perspectives necessary to achieve success in this global age.

The curriculum is comprised of the Georgia Standards of Excellence for Social Studies and the Georgia Standards of Excellence for Literacy in History/Social Studies. The emphasis is on developing content and disciplinary literacy. Social Studies teachers use their content area expertise to help students meet the particular challenges of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language in their respective social science fields.

All students are required to earn a total of three units of social studies credit in the following courses:

- American Government (one semester)
- World History (year-long)
- U.S. History (year-long)
- Personal Finance and Economics (one semester)

Additional courses may be selected from those listed on the following pages to fulfill a student's elective requirements for graduation.

Social Studies Courses

- Anthropology
- AP European History
- AP Government/Politics: Comparative
- AP Government/Politics: United States
- AP Human Geography
- AP Macroeconomics
- IB Theory of Knowledge
- International Affairs
- Introduction to African American/Black Studies
- Introduction to U.S. Women's Studies
- Peer Leadership
- Psychology

- AP Microeconomics
- AP Psychology
- AP United States History
- AP World History
- College Psychology
- Comparative Religions
- Constitutional Theory
- Current Issues
- IB Economics
- IB Global Politics
- IB History of the Americas
- IB Psychology
- Russian History
- Social Issues Through Media
- Sociology
- Sociology M (Magnet)
- Sports in American Society
- U.S. History
- U.S. History M (Magnet)
- U.S. History in Film
- World Area Studies M (Magnet)
- World Geography
- World History
- World History M (Magnet)

World Languages

Philosophy, Mission and Vision

Language and communication are at the heart of human experience. The Mission of Fulton County Schools World Languages is to educate students to be linguistically and culturally equipped to communicate successfully in personal, academic, and professional settings across a multilingual American society and abroad.

Our Vision is a future in which ALL students will develop and maintain proficiency in English and at least one other language, modern or classical. Children who come to school from non-English backgrounds should also have opportunities to develop further proficiencies in their first language.

We offer Spanish and French in every high School. In select schools we offer American Sign Language, Chinese, German, Greek, Japanese, Latin, Spanish, and Spanish for Native Speakers.

Instructional Goals

The goal of Fulton County Schools World Languages is to guide students in their development of language proficiency through mastery of the [Georgia Performance Standards for Modern and Classical Languages](#) [adopted from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) national performance standards] by providing proficiency-based instruction that is personalized to student needs. [Specific proficiency targets](#) for high school fall within the Novice-Low to Advanced-Mid levels of the ACTFL Proficiency Scale and are provided by teachers of each course.

For Modern Languages, these standards consist of “The 5 Cs”:

- Communication – students will engage in conversations, understand and interpret spoken and written language, and present information on a variety of topics.
- Culture – Students will learn about target culture products, practices and perspectives.
- Connections – Students will connect aspects of their target language learning with information acquired in other subject areas such as math, science, social studies, English and the arts.
- Comparisons – Students will demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language and culture, making comparisons between those of the target language and their own.
- Communities – Students will find and engage in the target language outside of the school environment and show evidence of building a life-long skill for their own personal enjoyment and enrichment.

For Latin and Greek, these standards consist of “The 4 Cs”:

- Communication – students will read passages, comprehend spoken phrases, quotations, and expressions, and provide accurate, written English translations.
- Culture – students will demonstrate an understanding of perspectives, practices, and products of the Greco-Roman culture.
- Connections – students will reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the study of classical languages.
- Comparisons – students will acquire information and recognize distinctive viewpoints via the study of Latin and the Greco-Roman civilization, as well as identify similarities and differences in ancient Roman/Greek and contemporary culture.

Graduating Seniors

- who have completed three credits in the same World Language will be eligible for the World Languages Pathway award.
- who have attained an Intermediate-High level of proficiency in a world language, as evidenced by earning a 4/5 on the AP exam or a 5/7 on the IB exam or outside testing, may be eligible to earn the [Georgia Seal of Biliiteracy](#).
- may also work toward earning the [International Skills Diploma Seal](#), which entails successful completion of:
 - A three-credit World Languages pathway
 - Four additional courses with an international focus
 - Twenty hours of community service
 - A Capstone project

Instructional Resources / Textbooks

<u>American Sign Language</u>	StartASL, <i>StartASL Level 2</i> , 2024
<u>Chinese</u>	Carnegie Learning, <i>Zhēn Bǎng!</i> Levels 1-3, 2017; Cheng & Tsui, <i>Integrated Chinese AP Chinese</i> , 2016
<u>French</u>	Lingco, <i>Lingco for French</i> Levels 1-3, 2025; Vista Higher Learning, <i>Thèmes AP French Language</i> , 2022
<u>German</u>	Wayside Publishing, <i>InterKulturell</i> Levels 1-2, 2025
<u>Greek</u>	Fordham University Press, <i>Greek: An Intensive Course</i> , 1992
<u>Japanese</u>	Cheng & Tsui, <i>Adventures in Japanese</i> Levels 1-3, 2015; <i>Dekiru</i> Level 4, 2024; <i>Strive for 5 AP Japanese</i> , 2015
<u>Latin</u>	Cambridge UP, <i>Cambridge Latin Course</i> Units 1&2, 2015
<u>Spanish</u>	Lingco, <i>Lingco for Spanish</i> Levels 1-3, 2025; <i>Imagina</i> Level 5, 2019; <i>Temas AP Spanish Language</i> , 2020
<u>Spanish for Native Speakers</u>	One Way Education, <i>Anécdotas</i> Levels 1-3, 2022

Assessment

Assessment will consist of Major, Minor and Practice measures. Assessment results keep both parents and students informed about their progress in the course. Major assessments encompass multiple standards; Minor assessments encompass one standard; Practice assessments may be limited to one or more elements of a standard. Samples may include, among others:

Major – Unit tests, speaking or writing performance assessments, integrated performance assessments, projects.

Minor – quizzes, partner dialogs, short written assignments
Practice – classwork, homework, participation

Optional district-wide Final Common Assessments are available at the end of the school year to assess overall student performance.

Benefits of Developing Proficiency in a World Language:

- Graduation Seals
- College Credit
- International Exchange Travel
- Enhanced workforce opportunities

Language Courses and Levels

American Sign Language	1	2/2H				
Chinese	1	2/2H	3H	4H		AP Chinese Language
French	1	2/2H	3/3H	4/4H	5H	AP French Language
German	1	2/2H	3/3H	4/4H		AP German Language
Greek	1	2/2H				
Japanese	1	2/2H	3H	4H		AP Japanese Language
Latin	1	2/2H	3/3H			AP Latin
Spanish	1	2/2H	3/3H	4/4H	5H	AP Spanish Language AP Spanish Literature
Spanish for Spanish Speakers	1	2	3			

H = Honors

Art Education

Philosophy

It is our mission to create the next generation of fine artists, fine arts appreciators, fine art critics and fine art patrons.



Art Education in Fulton County Schools integrates the study of art history, art criticism, aesthetics, and art production. As a subject in our schools, art education is based on the belief that looking at, talking about, and making art are processes essential to the well-educated student. The well-educated person is conversant with a breadth of ideas about:

- functions and styles of art in a wide range of cultures and societies
- influences, impact, and relationships of art to events and the human condition throughout history
- purposes, functions, and theories of art and artists in society
- knowledge, application and use of a variety of art media, skills, techniques, and processes.

The study of art provides opportunities to nourish high-level thinking. When well taught, skills associated with artistic thinking include the ability to see clearly, analyze, reflect, make judgments, forge connections among ideas and information, and generate new ideas from diverse sources. Three additional issues are integrated fully into curriculum for art education:

Cultural diversity: Visual Art in Fulton County integrates cultural contexts and a wide range of cultures across space and time.

Interdisciplinary connections: Art specialists are encouraged to seek opportunities to work with classroom teachers to integrate a variety of curriculum content into art and art content into curriculum. Art education is embedded within contexts and culture across and time *and geography*. We not only incorporate issues and concerns of cultural diversity, *but we also celebrate*, and support them with hundreds of *contemporary and historical* resources.

High School Art Education Organization

~Visual Art Comprehensive is the pre-requisite for all other pathways in Visual Art.

As the focus and goals of each high school vary at each FCS high school so do Fine Arts Pathways and other visual art offerings. Some high schools have two fully certified art teachers, some three and/or four; some include certified art teachers with a primary Fine Arts Pathway Focus such as Drawing, Painting or Ceramics and some schools have more specialized courses to a Fine Arts Pathways such as Photography, Fashion Design, Jewelry & Metalcrafts or Video and Filmmaking.

Reading, Writing, and Art Education

With an emphasis on reading throughout the school system, reading in art education has become an essential component of our program. We are formulating new ways to look at, study, contemplate, and “read” works of art and other art images as “visual text.”

Technology and Art Education

The world today depends upon being able to, with a discriminating eye, “read”, interpret, consume, and (often) produce technologically rendered visual imagery. Digital and cloud based technologies are making it easier for students to make art that they can publish and share. The creative use of technology has become increasingly critical to success in the world beyond the classroom. Fulton County Schools Personalized Learning initiative has been essential in successful integration of technology. The Fine Art Department along with the Instructional Technology Department have upgraded all high school art programs with industry standard computers and equipment.

Adaptive Art

Most students with exceptionalities and special needs attend regular art classes. Adaptive Art Specialists, however, serve certain self-contained special education classes, special needs middle school and special needs high school. Adaptive Art is designed to accommodate unique sensory, orthopedic, and developmental needs. The process is highly individualized to adapt concepts, subject matter, tools, and materials to myriad special needs

Curriculum and Goals

The Fulton County High School Art Education Curriculum aligns to the Georgia Standards of Excellence in Visual Art. Visual Art Comprehensive I is the pre-requisite for all other pathways in Visual Art. The curriculum is framed around four areas of instruction: **Creating, Presenting, Responding** and **Connecting**.

Assessment of Art Education

Assessment of art education is integral and essential to teaching and learning about the arts. Tests, written art criticism, and application and demonstration of skills are common means for evaluation. It is important to note that the grading is not for children’s artwork, but for their art learning. Evaluating growth in artistic expression, art knowledge gained, skills mastered, and attitudes enriched, as well as conduct and social behavior in the art class, provides a profile of the child’s total progress in art and helps guide further growth. A variety of measures are used to assess progress at the middle school level, which may include performance tasks, tests, quizzes, notebooks, sketchbooks, portfolios, as well as the art specialist’s own observations.

VISUAL ART COURSES

***Visual Art/Comp 1 is a prerequisite for all other art courses.**

Follow the Visual Art Pathways link for more detailed Pathway progression: [Visual Art Pathways](#)

Visual Art High School Courses 2023-2024 School Year		
Visual Art/Comp I*	Photography I	Sculpture I
Visual Art/Comp II*	Photography II Photography III	Sculpture II
Visual Art/Comp III	Photography IV	Sculpture III
Visual Art/Comp IV		Sculpture IV
Drawing I	Graphics & Design I	Ceramics I
Drawing II	Graphics & Design II Graphics & Design III	Ceramics II
Drawing III	Graphics & Design IV	Ceramics II
Drawing IV		Ceramics IV
Painting I	Video and Film Making I	Jewelry & Metalcrafts I
Painting II	Video and Film Making II	Jewelry & Metalcrafts II
Painting III	Video and Film Making III	Jewelry & Metalcrafts III
Painting IV	Video and Film Making IV	Jewelry & Metalcrafts IV
Drawing & Painting I	Fashion Design I	Printmaking I
Drawing & Painting II	Fashion Design II	Printmaking II
Drawing & Painting III	Fashion Design III	Printmaking III
Drawing & Painting IV	Fashion Design IV	Printmaking IV
Art History I	Digital Design I	Applied Design I
Art History II	Digital Design II	Applied Design II
	Digital Design III	Applied Design III
	Digital Design IV	Applied Design IV
Media Arts I	IB Standard Level Art	AP Art History
Media Arts II	IB Higher Level Art	AP Art: 2-D Art and Design
Media Arts III	IB Standard Level Film	AP Art: 3-D Art and Design
Media Arts IV	IB Higher Level Film	AP Art: Drawing
Magnet Levels of Regular Art Courses		

Visual Arts Pathway, Fine Arts Diploma Seal (FADS) & Careers in the Creative Industries

Students who continue in visual art in high school may elect to earn the Georgia Department of Education Fine Art Diploma Seal. This distinguished honor is awarded to graduating seniors meeting specific qualifications in their Fine Arts Pathways.

The FADS is a signal to **employers** and **higher education** institutions that a student is prepared to participate in Georgia's robust Creative Industries sector. For specific requirements [follow this link](#) and for more information contact the high school guidance counselor.

The creative industries are a **62-billion-dollar sector** in Georgia's economy employing more than 200,000 artists, actors, dancers, musicians and arts administrators. The goal of students following a Fine Arts Pathway is to prepare students for college and careers in the creative industries and beyond. *"Many STEM companies are looking for employees with liberal arts backgrounds as those employees are considered keys to the growth of the company."* (Pimentel, EdSurge, 2/25/2019).

Career, Technical and Agricultural Education

Philosophy

The mission of Fulton County Schools Career, Technical and Agricultural Education is to provide rigorous and relevant learning so that each student enrolled is college and career ready.



Goals

CTAE provides real world experiences to students by focusing on employability skills, technology trends, and industry needs. These are incorporated into several aspects of the CTAE experience by:

- Engaging students in cutting-edge, grade-appropriate career exploration and preparation opportunities. This includes guest speakers, job shadowing, and internships that provide authentic experiences for the student's learning and growth.
- Teaching work-ethics that are focused on integrity, sense of responsibility, pride of work, discipline, sense of teamwork, and collaboration that will help prepare students for the workforce.
- Providing hands-on, problem-based learning and classroom instruction that encourages critical thinking, innovation, and collaboration.
- Participating in Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) like DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, First Robotics, HOSA, SkillsUSA, and TSA. These co-curricular organizations offer leadership programs and competitive events which reflect current curriculum standards and competencies for the instructional programs they serve.

Students are encouraged to pursue pathway completion, which entails taking a sequence of three aligned courses in the same industry cluster. Either during or upon completion of a pathway, students are eligible to take an assessment leading to an industry recognized credential or certification (e.g., Emergency Medical Responder, Microsoft Office Specialist, ServSafe, OSHA & CPR/First Aid Certification). In addition, student participation in CTSOs and Work-Based Learning enables them to leave high school with tangible and marketable skills that documents their capabilities of a greater understanding in their chosen industry of study.

Pathway Courses

Currently, Fulton County Schools offers course studies in the following career clusters:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources• Architecture and Construction• Arts, Audio-Video Technology and Communications• Business, Management & Administration• Education and Training• Energy• Finance• Government and Public Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Science• Hospitality & Tourism• Human Services• Information Technology• Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security• Manufacturing• Marketing• Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics• Transportation, Distribution & Logistics
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Fulton Schools College & Career Academy

The Fulton Schools College & Career Academy (FSCCA), which opened in 2016, is a program focused on Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) where students can complete an entire CTAE

pathway in one academic year. The CTAE offerings include Audio Video Technology & Film, Aviation, Construction, Culinary Arts, Digital Media & Animation, and Teaching as a Profession. In addition to earning industry credentials through the coursework and certification exams, students can participate in internship and job shadowing opportunities as well as Dual Enrollment.

STEM Schools

Innovation Academy and Global Impact Academy, which opened in 2021, are world-class STEM magnet schools encouraging students to explore their passions and talents. They provide multiple high-demand career technology pathways that incorporate design thinking with an integrated curriculum. Students attend these schools full time starting in the 9th grade. All students attending these schools will complete at least one CTAE pathway in Engineering, Healthcare Science, and/or Computer Science.

The Promise Career Institute – Accelerated Career Diploma

The Promise Career Institute, which opened in 2024, is aligned to a dual enrollment program called the Accelerated Career Diploma. Using the Accelerated Career Diploma program, students can graduate with their high school diploma while being exempted from certain academic course requirements. These students must complete specific courses during their ninth and tenth grade year. During their remaining two years of high school, students will earn two technical certificates of credit, which may lead towards a technical college diploma or an associate degree. Students who meet these requirements will be issued a high school diploma.

Students electing to attend The Promise Career Institute should consider post-secondary plans beyond high school. Students who successfully graduate from The Promise Career Institute will graduate with two technical college career certifications that qualify them to enter the workforce or continue their education at a technical college. However, The Promise Career Institute graduates will not have all the required high school courses needed to be admitted to a traditional 4-year college or university. The Promise Career Institute graduates wanting to attend a 4-year college or university will be required to take additional courses at the technical college to obtain an Associate's degree.

For more information about Career, Technical and Agricultural Education and the specific programs that are offered at each school, please go to <https://www.fultonschools.org/ctae>.

Health & Physical Education

Philosophy

In Fulton County Schools, we believe a developmentally appropriate and comprehensive experience in health and physical education is essential for meeting the diverse needs of all students. Quality health and physical education programs foster growth and development through the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning domains. Physical education emphasizes skill-development, physical activity, health and skill-related fitness components, and lifetime enjoyment for being actively engaged in physical activity. By the end of high school, students will be college and career ready to demonstrate and describe key concepts associated with successful participation in physical activity for a lifetime. Students will be able to plan and implement different types of personal fitness programs; participate in lifetime activities; and model responsible behaviors while engaged in physical activity.

Health Education

Health education is an important part of the curriculum in Fulton County Schools. Health education is a graduation requirement and built on a comprehensive approach with each of the following components covered during the semester: Personal health and wellness; mental and emotional health; healthy eating; tobacco; alcohol and other drugs (including ADAP); violence prevention; human sexuality education; and safety and first aid.

Fulton County Schools will offer growth and development and human sexuality/HIV/AIDS education units to all students enrolled in a health course beginning in fifth grade. By state mandate, all public school systems in Georgia must include human sexuality as one facet of the comprehensive health education program. Our school system believes that all students should be equipped with factually accurate and appropriate information about these topics. Students who are armed with the facts are better informed to make healthy decisions. All content and instruction is implemented with sensitivity and are abstinence-based. However, the instruction that occurs in our schools should complement what is being taught at home and your values and expectations should be made very clear to your children.

Human sexuality education will focus on dating, refusal skills, developing healthy relationships, prevention of sexually-transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancy with a focus on abstinence.

Parents have the option of removing their child from the human sexuality unit at each grade level. Parents may review materials used in the course, talk with the teacher, and make an informed decision about their child's participation. Parents must notify the school in writing if they choose to remove their child from the unit.

Personal Fitness

Students are required to take a semester of personal fitness as part of the graduation requirement. The curriculum includes instruction on exercise safety and injury prevention, weather and climate effects on exercise, physical fitness and health-related fitness components, assessment of personal fitness levels, short and long term goal development, creation and evaluation of self-designed fitness plans, muscular strength and endurance, age-appropriate fitness levels, and nutrition and dietary practices. For safety and hygiene reasons, all students are expected to be dressed safe and appropriately for physical activity. The primary goal of instruction is to improve student fitness levels while demonstrating a positive attitude toward physical self and lifelong physical activity.

Fit Georgia

As part of your child's physical education program and their comprehensive health and physical education plan, individual levels of fitness will be tested using Fit Georgia, the state mandated fitness assessment program. Fit Georgia is a five part comprehensive fitness assessment designed to measure cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition. This fitness assessment will be administered to all students in grades 1-12 that are enrolled in a physical education course regardless of age, gender, or ability. Students are encouraged to be self-aware of their health-related fitness and to take responsibility by setting personal fitness goals. When students focus on continually improving their levels of fitness, a positive and lifelong impact can be achieved. As part of this process, your child's height and weight will be confidentially measured and recorded to determine the students Body Mass Index. Parent and/or guardians will receive a copy of their child's Fit Georgia score report indicating their body composition, aerobic capacity, abdominal strength, upper body

strength, and flexibility at the end of the school year. As the parent of a minor, Georgia law gives you the option of not having your child's height and weight measured at school. If you choose to exempt your child from this portion of the Fit Georgia Test, you will need to notify the school and physical education teacher in writing, but you will still receive a copy of the report with this section left blank.

Adapted Physical Education

Adaptive services are provided to students with a variety of exceptionalities when it has been determined that the general physical education setting is not the least restrictive environment for the student. Once parent consent had been obtained, the CTAPE/LaMAP learning assessment will be conducted by an adaptive physical education teacher to identify potential students. Qualifying students must have adaptive physical education included in their IEP. Based on the strengths and weaknesses shown by the learning assessment, the adaptive physical education teacher will act as a member of the IEP team to write IEP present levels of performance for physical education along with possible goals which would be addressed during adapted physical education.

Special Olympics

Special Olympics Georgia invests in people with intellectual disabilities, helping them to develop athletic skills, while also promoting the abilities of the athletes off the field. Fulton County Schools has over 800 registered athletes who train for and compete in competitions throughout the school year. Students who participate in the Special Olympics program must meet the following criteria:

- 1) 8 years of age or older
- 2) completed physical form with doctor signature
- 3) participate in an eight-week training program with a certified coach before all competitions
- 4) has an intellectual disability

Students in Fulton County Schools participate in a variety of sports such as bowling; bocce; softball; basketball; volleyball; track and field and tennis. Fulton County Schools Special Olympics coaches encourage all students to be the best they can be by differentiating instruction so that everyone is successful.

Health and Physical Education Courses	
General Physical Education General Physical Education I General Physical Education II General Physical Education III General Physical Education IV Theory in Physical Education	INTRODUCTORY SPORTS Introductory Team Sports Introductory Lifetime Sports Introductory Track and Field Introductory Outdoor Education Introductory Rhythmics and Dance Introductory Recreational Games Introductory Gymnastics, Stunts and Tumbling
INTERMEDIATE SPORTS Intermediate Team Sports Intermediate Lifetime Sports Intermediate Track and Field Intermediate Outdoor Education Intermediate Rhythmics and Dance Intermediate Recreational Games Intermediate Gymnastics, Stunts and Tumbling	ADVANCED SPORTS Advanced Team Sports Advanced Lifetime Sports Advanced Track and Field Advanced Outdoor Education Advanced Rhythmics and Dance Advanced Recreational Games Advanced Gymnastics, Stunts and Tumbling
PERSONAL FITNESS AND CONDITIONING Personal Fitness	ADVANCED PERSONAL FITNESS AND CONDITIONING

Physical Conditioning Aerobic Dance Weight Training Body Sculpting Intermediate Aerobic Dance Exercise & Weight Control	Advanced Aerobic Dance Advanced Personal Fitness Advanced Physical Conditioning Advanced Weight Training Advanced Body Sculpting Advanced Exercise and Weight Control
Health Education General Health First Aid and Safety Principles of Athletic Training/Sports Medicine	Adaptive PE Adaptive Physical Education I Adaptive Physical Education II Adaptive Physical Education III Adaptive Physical Education IV

Leadership Education – Army JROTC



The Junior ROTC program is a leadership and character education program of study for students enrolled in grades 9-12. Leadership education in the Junior ROTC program offers a unique opportunity for students to develop their leadership and managerial skills. Students completing the Leadership Education – Army JROTC pathway have unlimited opportunities for post-secondary education or employment in both the public and private sector. A leadership pathway is ideally suited for students interested in pursuing a career in business or public management and administration, Foreign Service, governance, national security, small business development, or human resources. One of the fastest growing areas of employment is in federal service, particularly in the areas of leadership positions in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields. Leaders must have strong communication skills, work ethics

and the ability to develop teamwork and teambuilding skills. In addition to employment in the private sector, numerous leadership opportunities exist for students electing to join the armed forces. There are more than 2,000 career opportunities. High demand fields may include medical, aviation, engineering, maintenance, technology, communications and intelligence. Students interested in pursuing a career as a military officer may enroll in Senior ROTC (college preparation programs). Scholarship opportunities are available for all branches of military service.

This program of study will help students build a strong knowledge base of self-discovery and leadership skills applicable to many leadership and managerial situations. Mastery of the Army Junior ROTC standards through project-based learning, service learning and leadership development activities will prepare students for 21st Century leadership responsibilities. The curriculum focus is reflected in its mission statement, *"To motivate young people to be better citizens"*.

This program intends to teach students to:

- Maximize potential for success through learning and self-management
- Develop leadership skills
- Incorporate principles of mental and physical wellness into behaviors and decisions
- Build effective relationships with peers, co-workers, and the community
- Apply physical and political geography to building global awareness
- Correlate the rights and responsibilities of citizenship to the purposes of the U.S. government
- Relate events in U.S. history to choices and responsibilities Americans have today
- Characterize the role of the military and other national service organizations in building a democracy and maintaining peace in a democratic society.

Students are encouraged to participate in the numerous community and service learning projects that are scheduled throughout the school year. The Junior ROTC curriculum is enhanced through

extracurricular and co-curricular activities including an annual formal event, competitive and community Color Guard teams, Exhibition and Standard Drill Teams, Raider Challenge Teams (rope bridge building, map reading, orienteering and physical fitness) and Academic Bowl and Leadership Teams. In addition, Junior ROTC programs support Varsity Air Rifle Teams, a Georgia High School Association sanctioned sport. The integration of practical work with theory is fundamental to the program. A selected number of students may participate in an experiential summer leadership development program (JROTC Cadet Leadership Challenge). Students are expected to wear an issued uniform once a week and meet specified grooming standards.

JROTC Courses

- JROTC/Army Leadership Education 1A
- JROTC/Army Leadership Education 1B
- JROTC/Army Leadership Education 2A
- JROTC/Army Leadership Education 2B
- JROTC/Army Leadership Education 3A
- JROTC/Army Leadership Education 3B
- JROTC/Army Leadership Education 4A
- JROTC/Army Leadership Education 4B

Music Education

Philosophy

The study of music is important to one's aesthetic, emotional, academic, physical, and social growth, and is a significant part of the cultural heritage of all peoples. Through music, individuals develop keener insights into the dignity and worth of people, enjoy a more humanized educational environment, and grow intellectually and artistically. Each student is unique and learns to make independent judgments and informed choices about personal needs. A developmental, sequential, and productive music education program encourages self-directed learning and creativity. Past musical experiences enable students to build a value system that is applied to new musical experiences.

Goals

- To support students in building a lifelong relationship with music as consumers, producers and performers
- To stimulate and expand aural, physical and visual senses
- To provide opportunities for all students to have some knowledge of music as well as providing certain students the opportunity for specialized and advanced study
- To help students perceive the value in the study of music
- To broaden pre-existing foundations of music experiences
- To aid students in discovering the common areas which exist in music with other arts and academics
- To provide students with a means for understanding and appreciating shared cultural heritages, and to broaden the understanding of music in other cultures
- To provide opportunities through music for students to find satisfaction in their accomplishments both individually and collectively
- To foster within the student a respect for the opinion of others

Music Courses

Beginning Chorus I, II, III, IV

Intermediate Chorus I, II, III, IV

Beginning Band I, II, III, IV

Intermediate Band I, II, III, IV

Advanced Chorus I, II, III, IV
Mastery Mixed Chorus I, II, III, IV
Beginning Women's Chorus I, II, III, IV
Intermediate Women's Chorus I, II, III, IV
Advanced Women's Chorus I, II, III, IV
Mastery Women's Chorus I, II, III, IV
Beginning Men's Chorus I, II, III, IV
Intermediate Men's Chorus I, II, III, IV
Advanced Men's Chorus I, II, III, IV
Mastery Men's Chorus I, II, III, IV
Beginning Piano I, II, III
Intermediate Piano I, II
Advanced Piano I, II

Advanced Band I, II, III, IV
Mastery Band I, II, III, IV
Percussion I, II, III, IV
Advanced Jazz I, II, III, IV
Beginning Orchestra I, II, III, IV
Intermediate Orchestra I, II, III, IV
Advanced Orchestra I, II, III, IV
Mastery Orchestra I, II, III, IV M
Chamber Music I, II, III, IV
Beginning Guitar Techniques I, II, III
Advanced Guitar I, II, III
International Baccalaureate Music

Non-Performing Music Courses

Music Theory I, II
AP Music Theory
Music Appreciation
Ethnic Music Studies I, II
Beginning Music Technology
Intermediate Music Technology
Advanced Music Technology

Additional Information

High school course offerings include performance and non-performance classes designed to challenge students of all experiences and backgrounds. Performance courses involve co-curricular, outside of school time rehearsal requirements that must be met to receive grade credit. Numerous additional performance opportunities for students are offered through high school music programs including: Atlanta Youth Symphony Orchestra, All-State Band, Chorus, or Orchestra, Atlanta Youth Wind Symphony, Metropolitan Atlanta Youth Wind Ensemble, Georgia Music Educators Association events, etc.

Performance Classes

Students are given opportunities to perform in school bands, choirs, and orchestras. In these courses, groups often rehearse after regular school hours. To meet the Prioritized Standard, "performs with others", students are expected to attend rehearsals and performances during and after school. These Performance-Based Assessments are counted as Major grades.

Individual enrichment opportunities include GMEA District Honor Band, District Honor Choir, and All-State Band, Chorus, & Orchestra. These opportunities are available only to students enrolled in the respective band, chorus, or orchestra class.

Available Resources

In band, chorus, and orchestra, Music Literature serves as the textbook and includes method books and sheet music provided by the school.

Theatre Education

Philosophy

It is our mission to create the next generation of fine artists, fine arts appreciators, fine art critics and fine art patrons.



As one of the oldest forms of education theatre provides people with opportunities for empathetic and self-reflection through observation and analysis which culminate in live performances that foster creativity, self-expression, confidence, and active communication. The process of creating a theatrical performance requires artists to engage in the highest levels of thinking.

Goals

The goal of theatrical education in Fulton County is two-fold

- I. We provide the tools and opportunities to engage in increasingly higher levels of student understanding and mastery in the categories of:

Theatrical Analysis

- Analyzing and constructing meaning from theatrical experiences, dramatic literature, and electronic media
- Critiquing various aspects of theatre and other media using appropriate supporting evidence

Theatrical Performance and Execution:

- Developing scripts through improvisation and other theatrical methods
- Designing and executing artistic and technical elements of theatre
- Directing by conceptualizing, organizing, and conducting rehearsals for performance
- Acting by developing, communicating, and sustaining roles within a variety of situations and environments

- II. The other function of theatrical education in the larger context of educating the whole student is to combat compartmentalization of knowledge in other disciplines by making cross curricular and real-world connections through:
 - Researching cultural and historical information to support artistic choices
 - Integrating various art forms, other content areas, and life experiences to create theatre
 - Examining the roles of theatre as a reflection of past and present civilizations
 - Exploring the business of theatre
 - Engaging actively and appropriately as an audience member in theatre and other media experiences

Theater Courses

Fundamentals of Theatre I	Advanced Drama I	Technical Theater I
Fundamentals of Theatre II	Advanced Drama II	Technical Theater II
Fundamentals of Theatre III	Advanced Drama III	Technical Theater III
Fundamentals of Theatre IV	Advanced Drama IV	Technical Theater IV
Acting I	Musical Theater I	Lighting Design I
Acting II	Musical Theater II	Lighting Design II
Acting III	Musical Theater III	Lighting Design III
Acting IV	Musical Theater IV	Lighting Design IV

Acting & Production in Film I Acting & Production in Film II Acting & Production in Film III Acting & Production in Film IV	Film and Television I Film and Television II Film and Television III Film and Television IV	IB Theatre Year I IB Theatre Year I IB Film Year I IB Film Year II
Theater Arts/ History and Literature I Theater Arts/ History and Literature II	Dramatic Writing (Film, Television, and Theatre)* Theater Management	

*Course meets fourth English Language requirement

Theatre Arts Pathway, Fine Arts Diploma Seal (FADS) & Careers in the Creative Industries

Students who pursue Theatre in high school may elect to earn the Georgia Department of Education Fine Art Diploma Seal. This distinguished honor is awarded to graduating seniors meeting specific qualifications in their Fine Arts Pathways.

The FADS is a signal to **employers** and **higher education** institutions that a student is prepared to participate in Georgia's robust Creative Industries sector. For specific requirements [follow this link](#) and for more information contact the high school guidance counselor.

The creative industries are a **62-billion-dollar sector** in Georgia's economy employing more than 200,000 artists, actors, dancers, musicians and arts administrators. The goal of students following a Fine Arts Pathway is to prepare students for college and careers in the creative industries and beyond. *"Many STEM companies are looking for employees with liberal arts backgrounds as those employees are considered keys to the growth of the company."* (Pimentel, EdSurge, 2/25/2019).

Advanced Placement (AP)

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program of college-level courses taught in the high school setting by high school teachers. All AP courses have been approved by College Board and provide students with the opportunity to seek advanced coursework leading to advanced placement and/or college credit through successful completion of a College Board AP examination. All students taking and passing AP courses are expected to take the AP examination unless they follow the opt out process.

The purposes for taking an AP course are to learn a subject in greater depth, to develop analytical reasoning skills, and to develop disciplined study habits appropriate for continued success at the college level. Compared with regular high school courses, AP courses are more demanding, requiring more time and work outside of the school day, including the summer prior to the start of a course. Research shows that students who complete AP classes are better prepared for the demands of college.

Schools determine which Advanced Placement courses will be offered based on the needs of their students. Advanced Placement courses and examinations are available in the following areas:

Art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-D Art and Design • 3-D Art and Design • Art Drawing • Art History 	Capstone Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminar • Research 	Computer Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science A • Computer Science Principals
Language Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and Composition • Literature and Composition 	Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculus (AB/BC) • Pre-Calculus • Statistics 	Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Theory

Social Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative Government and Politics • Economics (Macro/Micro) • European History • Human Geography • Psychology • US Government and Politics • US History • World History 	Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • Chemistry • Environmental Science • Physics 1 • Physics 2 • Physics C Electricity & Magnetism • Physics C Mechanics 	World Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese Language and Culture • French Language and Culture • German Language and Culture • Japanese Language and Culture • Latin • Spanish Language and Culture • Spanish Literature and Culture
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All AP exams (except 2-D and 3-D Art and Design, Art Drawing, and Music Theory) contain both multiple choice and free response questions that require essay writing, problem-solving, and other skills. In 2-D and 3-D Art and Design and Art Drawing, students submit portfolios of their work instead of taking an examination. In Music Theory, students take a competency examination in music theory, including multiple choice questions, free response questions, and sight singing.

Advancement through Individual Determination (AVID)

AVID is a College and Career Readiness System that transforms leadership, instruction, and culture to focus on the academic and social skills needed in higher education and beyond. Schools implementing AVID operate with a guiding principle: hold students to the highest standards, provide academic and social support, and they will rise to the challenge. The AVID system extends from elementary to post-secondary and is based on research-based curriculum and strategies to develop critical thinking, literacy, and math skills across all content areas.

At the secondary level, AVID builds a college-going and career culture by bringing best practices and methodologies to high school students. The goal is to close the achievement gap by preparing students for, and supporting them in, the toughest courses schools offer. That goal starts with the AVID elective class and grows schoolwide. The AVID elective class is comprised of students who follow an application process and are selected to participate in AVID. The AVID elective class provides explicit instruction in writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading (WICOR) strategies so that students have the skills necessary to meet the expectations of rigorous courses. AVID supports students taking honors, International Baccalaureate (IB), and Advanced Placement (AP) courses by building a community, providing academic help from peers and tutors, and participating in motivational activities to help students achieve their dreams. Students not in the AVID elective are supported by AVID-trained educators who integrate strategies and best practices into content area classes.

Fulton County high schools offering the AVID program are Banneker, Centennial, Creekside, Langston Hughes, North Springs, Riverwood, Roswell, The Promise Career Institute, and Tri-Cities.

Dual Enrollment

Interested in taking college courses while in high school at no cost to you? If so, Georgia's Dual Enrollment Program allows students enrolled at a participating eligible public high school to receive funding for college courses. Through Dual Enrollment **students can take college courses** for credit towards both high school graduation and college!



Dual Enrollment Participation & Eligibility

- Enrolled in a Fulton County School high school, and
- Has not received a high school diploma, and
- Meets admission requirements and has been accepted by an eligible postsecondary institution, and
- Beginning Summer 2020, has not withdrawn from two or more college courses, and
- Meets district, college, and local high school deadlines.
- Meets grade level eligibility requirements set forth by HB444. 9th Graders (Not Eligible), 10th Graders ([Conditional Eligibility](#)), 11th-12th Graders (Eligible)

Students interested in taking college courses through dual enrollment should reach out to their high school counselor. High school counselors can assist with walking students through the dual enrollment process.

Dual Enrollment Resources

[GA Futures: Dual Enrollment Overview](#)
[DE Option B\(SB2\)](#)
[University System of Georgia \(USG\)](#)
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Participating Schools](#)
[Funding College Courses](#)
[Application Tutorial Video](#)

[Technical College System of Georgia](#)
[Georgia Department of Education](#)
[Board Rule for Dual Enrollment](#)

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Program

What is ESOL?

ESOL is a standards-based instructional program designed to address the unique challenges faced by students whose first language is not English. The ESOL Program integrates the WIDA English language proficiency standards with the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE). Students in ESOL develop proficiency in the English language skills of listening, speaking, writing, reading and comprehension while acquiring the academic content of GSE. All instruction in the ESOL program is provided in English, thereby maximizing students' opportunity to master social and academic English.



Georgia/Federal law mandates that students be screened for the ESOL program based on a series of questions regarding the how languages other than English are used at home. Students who are identified by set criteria are tested in accordance with state procedures to determine whether they qualify for ESOL services. All students who qualify for ESOL are tested annually with an English language proficiency measure in accordance with Federal laws. This measure is used to determine language progress and is one of the criteria used for exit from the ESOL program.

Goals

The WIDA English Language Proficiency Standards are:

- English language learners communicate for social and instructional purposes within the school setting.
- English language learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Language Arts.
- English language learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Mathematics.
- English language learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Science.

- English language learners communicate information, ideas, and concepts necessary for academic success in the content area of Social Studies.

Students in the ESOL program are multilingual learners with language skills in one or more languages other than English and are working to develop proficiency in English. Students exit the ESOL program when they attain proficiency in social and academic English appropriate to their age and grade level and no longer need the intensive language support. After exiting the program, students are monitored for four years to ensure a smooth transition to mainstream classes.

Levels of Language Proficiency

Level 1 – Entering

English learners at the Entering level will process, understand, produce or use:

- pictorial or graphic representation of the language of the content areas
- words, phrases or chunks of language when presented with one-step commands, directions, WH-, choice or yes/no questions, or statements with sensory, graphic or interactive support
- oral language with phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that often impede meaning when presented with basic oral commands, direct questions, or simple statements with sensory, graphic or interactive support

Level 2 - Emerging

English learners at the Beginning level will process, understand, produce or use:

- general language related to the content areas
- phrases or short sentences
- oral or written language with phonological, syntactic, or semantic errors that often impede the meaning of the communication when presented with one- to multiple-step commands, directions, questions, or a series of statements with sensory, graphic or interactive support

Level 3 – Developing

English learners at the Developing level will process, understand, produce or use:

- general and some specific language of the content areas
- expanded sentences in oral interaction or written paragraphs
- oral or written language with phonological, syntactic or semantic errors that may impede the communication, but retain much of its meaning, when presented with oral or written, narrative or expository descriptions with sensory, graphic or interactive support

Level 4 – Expanding

English learners at the Expanding level will process, understand, produce or use:

- specific and some technical language of the content areas
- a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in oral discourse or multiple, related sentences or paragraphs
- oral or written language with minimal phonological, syntactic or semantic errors that do not impede the overall meaning of the communication when presented with oral or written connected discourse with sensory, graphic or interactive support

Level 5 – Bridging

English learners at the Bridging level will process, understand, produce or use:

- specialized or technical language of the content areas
- a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral or written discourse, including stories, essays or reports oral or written language approaching comparability to that of English-proficient peers when presented with grade level material

ESOL Program Courses

- Communication Skills I
- Communication II
- Oral Communication in the Content Areas
- Reading & Listening in the Content Areas
- Writing in the Content Areas
- 9th Composition/Literature (Sheltered)
- 10th Composition/Literature (Sheltered)
- American Literature (Sheltered)
- Multicultural Literature (Sheltered)
- World Literature (Sheltered)

*All courses carrying ELA credit follow GSE and WIDA Standards

Extended Learning

What is extended learning?

The purpose of offering Extended Learning options at elementary and middle schools is to provide students with additional time/opportunities to be successful in the grade level.

Why extended learning?

We know that there may be students with learning gaps that need to be filled for a variety of reasons. We also have students who may need additional instruction in numeracy and/or literacy in order to stay on track with this year's coursework. The extended learning program can be leveraged to support any of these scenarios.

High School Remedial Education

Purpose

The Remedial Education Program (REP) for high school is intended for students in grades 9-12, who have identified deficiencies in reading, writing, and/or in mathematics. This program provides individualized basic skills instruction as mandated by Georgia Law in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. Specifically, REP provides a structure for additional instruction and evidence-based interventions to ensure students meet grade level expectations at the high school level.

Program Structure

The program design is developed in coordination with regular instruction and other educational programs. Development and evaluation of the program involves teachers, administrators, and parents at the school level. Remedial education includes four components: Staff, Delivery Models, Class Size, and Instructional Segments of Service.

Staff

Remedial is staffed by certified teachers with experience and expertise in teaching students with diverse needs and abilities. Remedial funds provide additional staff beyond that provided through regular funds.

Delivery Models

Each participating school selects the delivery model(s) to be used. Any combination of state approved models may be used within a school depending on the unique needs and characteristics of the students and school.

Class Size

A class for Remedial must follow class size maximums that are approved by the state.

Instructional Segments of Service

A segment for grades 6-12 is defined as 50-60 minutes of daily instruction. In order that students receive appropriate instruction, teachers match teaching strategies with a student's learning style. In addition,

remedial teachers use a process of teaching the basic skills that lends itself to an integrated approach across the total curriculum content. Teacher training in best practices is provided by Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics Departments as well as by Instructional Coaches.

Eligibility

Eligibility determination is made at the school level by identifying the students functioning below the normal expectation for the respective grade as determined by criteria established by the Georgia Department of Education and the Fulton County School System. The academic risk report is a tool that can identify potential student candidates for REP. The academic risk report provides normed data for recent assessments in an efficient manner so schools can easily triangulate information to identify students who could benefit from the remedial education program.

Assessment and Accountability

Schools maintain individual student assessment data and report achievement of the student served. This documentation is used to measure student achievement and program success. Students must be moved into REP, provided assistance through documented interventions, and moved out of REP upon reaching grade level performance. Students placed in REP must be administered a progress monitoring assessment that will reflect achievement gains throughout the academic year.

International Baccalaureate Program (IB)

International Baccalaureate (IB) schools aim to go beyond traditional curriculum by developing inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring young people motivated to succeed. IB offers a continuum of programs from elementary through high school. The programs encourage both personal and academic achievement, challenging students in their studies and personal development.

The Middle Years Program (MYP), for students in grades 6-10, is a challenging, inclusive framework of eight subject areas where students make connections between their coursework and the real world. The MYP curriculum focuses on teaching and learning in context. MYP uses concepts, or big ideas, as springboards to inquiry into issues and ideas of personal, local, and global significance. The MYP approach to learning develops independent learning and encourages application of knowledge in unfamiliar contexts. Service and action are key values in the IB community. MYP students complete projects through school or personal explorations of inquiry, action, and reflection.

The oldest and most widely known IB program is the Diploma Program (DP). The Diploma Program focuses on the breadth and depth of knowledge through rigorous coursework and personal action. Students in the DP Program excel in traditional academic subjects and seek to broaden their high school experience. The DP curriculum is composed of the DP core and six subject groups. The DP Core includes the exploration of the nature of learning through a unique course called the Theory of Knowledge (TOK); an independent, extended essay based on self-directed research; and Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) project. The six subject groups include Studies in Language and Literature, Language acquisition, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, and the arts. IB assesses mastery of advanced academic skills through internal assessments and IB course exams.

Riverwood High School is an authorized IB World School offering the Middle Years (MYP) Program for grades 9 and 10 and the Diploma Program (DP) for grades 11 and 12. Centennial High School and Alpharetta High School are authorized IB Diploma Schools offering IB Diploma courses for selected juniors

and seniors. Westlake High School is a Candidate school for the MYP Program in grades 9 and 10 and is an authorized IB World School with the Diploma Program for grades 11 and 12.

Special Education-Services for Students with Disabilities

Philosophy:

The Services for Exceptional Children Department ensures the instruction of students with disabilities is grounded in grade-level standards, specially designed to meet the individual needs of each student and tailored to promote growth and learning.

Our philosophy is grounded in the following Value Statements:

- **The belief that all students with disabilities are capable of accessing grade level content.**
The desire to utilize grade level materials, instructional best practices, and student data in the planning of and facilitation of daily instruction will foster multi-faceted approaches and strategies for learning that indistinguishably engage and support students with disabilities in growth and independence.
- **The belief that all students with disabilities have strengths that enable them to learn and grow academically, socially and independently.**
The desire to seek out student strengths to leverage in the planning and instruction of students with disabilities will assist students with disabilities in developing skills to independently use their strengths and learned strategies across all academic and non-academic activities.
- **The belief that all students with disabilities deserve access to the general education environment to the greatest extent possible.**
The desire to approach students with disabilities with the intention of transitioning them back to general education will increase access to the general education environment to the greatest extent possible.
- **The belief that all students with disabilities deserve access to non-academic school-based activities.**
The desire to embody the mindset that students with disabilities are valuable members of our community and thus include all students when planning non-academic school-based activities will strengthen the abilities of students with disabilities.
- **The belief that all school leaders, teachers, and support staff are fundamentally responsible for the success of students with disabilities.**
The desire to seek out opportunities to build lasting relationships with students with disabilities in order to ensure student growth through equitable and inclusive practices will reinforce for students with disabilities that multiple adults in their school community are invested in their success within and beyond the classroom.

Goals

In accordance with our philosophy, the Services for Exceptional Children Department strives to ensure that through specially designed instruction in the least restrictive environment, students with disabilities will have access to a rigorous curriculum that is meaningful, challenging, and is aligned to grade level standards.

Eligibility and Services

Eligibility for special education services is based on the state eligibility requirements which can be found on the [Georgia Department of Education website](#). Students found eligible for special education services will receive services as outlined in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP). IEP teams will make data-based decisions to determine the type and level of support that is necessary in order to meet student needs.

- Fulton County Schools provides a full continuum of services which includes but is not limited to Interrelated Resource (e.g. small group, co-taught), specialized program classes, speech/language therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Classes for specialized programs including preschool special education, kindergarten special education, autism and intellectual disabilities are provided in every learning zone.
- Fulton County Schools has partnered with area business to establish LIFE corporate classroom locations to teach vocational and life skills to students with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities. After completing the LIFE program, students are placed in careers at an average rate of 90%.
- All Fulton County School high schools offer programs for students with intellectual disabilities including community-based instruction opportunities.

Talented and Gifted (TAG)

Philosophy

Intellectually gifted students require specialized educational experiences that promote the development and expression of their potential. If gifted individuals—as children, youths and adults—are to experience fulfilling lives and if society is to derive optimal benefits from gifted individuals' uncommon potentials, an educational program must be structured to develop more fully their exceptional and varied abilities, interests and talents.

The Fulton County Talented and Gifted (TAG) program is a response to the need to address the unique learning characteristics, interests, personal needs and capabilities of gifted children. The program emphasizes the gifted students' need for interaction with intellectual peers. Emphasis on the individual highlights the fact that there are differences among gifted students and a need for specialized educational experiences to meet these differences.

Basic to the philosophy of this program is the idea that no one teacher, resource, or instructional method can meet all of the needs of gifted students. Education for the gifted is viewed as a cooperative endeavor characterized, facilitated, and realized by the efforts of numerous individuals in the schools and community.

These goals are accomplished in high schools by adjusting the rate and depth of learning for gifted students through differentiation and by using a variety of appropriate teaching methods. Further differentiation beyond that which is done in the general education classroom is accomplished through selected honors courses, seminars, individual projects, advanced placement courses, directed studies, and career internships. These are designed to intensify and extend the learning of gifted students, taking into account their particular interests and aptitudes.

Eligibility

The Talented and Gifted Program identifies gifted students based upon State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-38. All students in Fulton County Schools are screened twice a year for the gifted program. If a student is referred for the gifted program, the school must gather information in the areas of multiple criteria: mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation. According to State Board of Education Rule 160-4-2-38, students may qualify for gifted services through option A or option B. In Option A, students must have a qualifying score in the mental ability and achievement categories. In Option B, students must have a qualifying score in three of the four categories of mental ability, achievement, creativity, and motivation. One source of information may not be used to qualify a student in more than one area.

Students identified for the gifted program are served at their home school by a gifted endorsed teacher.

Program Goals

In accordance with this philosophy, the following program goals have been adopted in order to identify and serve the gifted students of Fulton County:

1. To help teachers, administrators, and parents identify gifted students and understand their unique abilities, needs, and preferences.
2. To design and implement differentiated instructional experiences in the school and the community.
3. To develop in gifted students an accurate and increasing awareness of themselves, their abilities, and their value to society.

Learner Goals

We believe that by meeting the program goals and objectives, we will be able to promote and achieve the following learner goals to develop:

1. Advanced research methods and independent study skills,
2. Creative thinking and creative problem-solving skills in order to be generators of ideas and products which are original to the learners,
3. Higher order and critical thinking skills,
4. Advanced communication skills that incorporate new techniques, materials, and formats in the development of products and ideas that will be shared with real audiences.

Title I Program

Program Description and Services

Title I is a federally funded program designed to ensure that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

2024-2025 Title I High Schools

Banneker	Creekside
Langston Hughes	McClarín
The Promise Career Institute	Tri-Cities
FAVE	

2024-2025 Title I Charter High Schools

Georgia Baptist Children's Home (6-12)	Hapeville Charter Career Academy (9-12)
Skyview High School (9-12)	Wellspring Living (6-12)

Goals

- Ensure that high-quality academic assessments, accountability systems, teacher preparation and training, curriculum, and instructional materials are aligned with challenging State academic standards so that students, teachers, parents, and administrators can measure progress, against common expectations for student academic achievement;
- Meet the educational needs of low-achieving children in our Nation's highest-poverty schools, limited English proficient children, migratory children, children with disabilities, Indian children, neglected or delinquent children, and young children in need of reading assistance;

- Close the achievement gap between high and low-performing children, especially the achievement gaps between minority and non-minority students, and between disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers;
- Improve and strengthen accountability, teaching, and learning by using State assessment systems designed to ensure that students are meeting challenging State academic achievement and content standards and increasing achievement overall, but especially for the disadvantaged;
- Provide greater decision-making authority and flexibility to schools and teachers in exchange for greater responsibility for student performance;
- Provide children an enriched and accelerated educational program, including the use of school-wide programs or additional services that increase the amount and quality of instructional time;
- Provide school-wide reform and ensure the access of children to effective, research-based instructional strategies and challenging academic content;
- Significantly elevate the quality of instruction by providing staff with substantial opportunities for professional development;
- Coordinate services under all parts of this title with each other, with other educational services, and, to the extent feasible, with other agencies providing services to youth, children and families; and
- Afford parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

Media Services (Media and Educational Technology / Instructional Technology)

The Fulton County Schools' Media and Educational Technology Instructors (METIs), formerly known as media specialists, promote academic excellence by empowering students and staff to be effective, discriminating users of ideas and information. METIs offer balanced and relevant collections of digital and print resources that are accessible anytime, anywhere, and on any web-enabled computer, laptop or mobile device. Additionally, media and educational technology instructors promote literacy, cultivate a life-long love of reading, facilitate professional development, and acquire print and digital resources. METIs promote personalized and engaging learning experiences tailored to students.

Fulton County Schools provides the following digital resources for schools:

OVERDRIVE: Access to hundreds of fiction and nonfiction titles, magazines and graphic novels.

DESTINY: Online School Media Center Catalog

MACKINVIA: Access all electronic books and digital resources from this link

WORLD BOOK ONLINE: Thousands of articles, primary sources, and online books designed to support personalized learning and enhance digital citizenship.

SAFARI Montage: Extensive collection of digital media content

GALILEO – Georgia Library Learning Online – access to over 100 databases

<http://www.galileo.usg.edu> See METI (Media Specialist) for passcode

GALE DISTRICT VIRTUAL REFERENCE LIBRARY (STUDENT) *Access this resource via MackinVIA

DATABASES

GALE IN CONTEXT: SCIENCE This database contains authoritative information on hundreds of significant science topics. It is updated continually and provides access to full-text magazines, academic journals, news articles, experiments, images, videos, audio files and links to websites.

GALE IN CONTEXT: BIOGRAPHY This database contains authoritative information on the world's most influential and prominent figures. It provides access to periodicals and multimedia content.

GALE IN CONTEXT: US HISTORY Aligned to state and national curriculum standards, *U.S. History In Context* provides a complete overview of our nation's past that covers the most-studied events, decades,

conflicts, wars, political and cultural movements, and people. Comprehensive, contextual, media-rich information is provided on topics ranging from the arrival of Vikings in North America, to the stirrings of the revolution, through to the Civil Rights movement, 9/11, and the War on Terror.

GALE IN CONTEXT: WORLD HISTORY Aligned to state and national curriculum standards, *World History In Context* provides an overview of world history that covers the most-studied events, periods, cultures, civilizations, religions, conflicts, wars, ideologies, cultural movements, and people.

GALE IN CONTEXT: OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS This database focuses on current social issues, from capital punishment to immigration, to violent video games. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* is cross-curricular and supports science, social studies, current events, and language arts classes.

Digital Resources for Learning

FCS provides students with access to a variety of digital resources to support learning. All district provided resources can be accessed via Classlink at <https://launchpad.classlink.com/fcs>.

Students will need to enter their FCS username and passcode to login to ClassLink. The username is the student's ID number, and the passcode is selected by the student. Once in the system the student should click the desired resource.

Here is a list of the most notable apps for High School:

Math	ALEKS	Online adaptive learning program
Math	McGraw Hill ConnectED	Online curriculum
Science	Gizmos	Online science simulations
Social Studies	HMH ED (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)	Online curriculum
ELA	Savvas myPerspectives	Online curriculum
ELA/Social Studies/Science	Achieve 3000	Differentiated texts and lessons by Lexile level
Health	Glencoe Health 2022	Online curriculum
Personal Fitness	Goodheart Wilcox: Essential Fitness and Wellness Skills for High School	Online curriculum
All subjects	SAFARI Montage	Video streaming library; search by topic
All subjects	Office 365 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OneDrive • Office apps (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) • Teams • Other apps as needed 	Productivity and collaboration
All subjects	Adobe Express	Create graphics, videos, and websites
All subjects	Illuminate	District assessment tool
All subjects	Nearpod	Interactive lessons, videos, and activities
All subjects	MackinVia	Provides students with access to electronic books, audiobooks, databases, and other digital resources
All subjects	Canvas	Fulton County High Schools are transitioning to the Canvas Learning Management System. Some teachers may use Canvas instead of Microsoft Teams during the 2023-2024 school year.

All subjects	Turnitin	Turnitin is a writing tool to assist teachers with addressing plagiarism, checking grammar and providing feedback.
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Depending on the science course students are enrolled in they may also have access to online textbooks. Publishers vary depending on the specific course students are enrolled in.

Online Learning Options

Fulton County Schools students have access to a variety of online options during their academic careers. FCS students taking middle or high school courses can supplement their face-to-face options by taking some of their courses online through Fulton Virtual (FV) or Georgia Virtual (GAVS) while still enrolled at their home school. Students may take up to three (3) of their courses online as part of their regular school-day schedule. In some limited situations, due to extenuating circumstances, students can take all their courses online through FV or GAVS for a semester or more with their counselor's and principal's approval. Families interested in enrolling in an online course through Fulton or Georgia Virtual should reach out to their school counselors. Families interested in a permanent full-time online curriculum would need to enroll in the Fulton Academy of Virtual Excellence (FAVE), or a state approved external option which would require a student to withdraw from Fulton County Schools.

Fulton Virtual Program (FV)

Fulton Virtual (FV) offers over 100 core content, electives, world languages, and advanced placement courses. FV provides competency-based instruction that is flexibly paced to meet a student's academic needs. While students need to complete the course content by the end of the term, the rate a student works through a topic is flexible. However, it is the expectation that students log-in and make progress throughout every week. Fulton Virtual's instructional model is like a flipped classroom where our teachers leverage the content in our LMS to deliver direct instruction. FV teachers reteach and reassess until the learner demonstrates mastery and they use formative assessments to determine what remediation and/or enrichment each student needs to progress. Fulton Virtual courses are student-led; instructors work with students, parents/guardians and other stakeholders (e.g., counselors) to deliver course learning objectives and support the academic needs of each student. For information about courses and links to Fulton Virtual registration visit the Fulton Virtual page on the district website: www.fultonschools.org/fultonvirtual

Georgia Virtual (GAVS)

Georgia Virtual offers more than 100 courses in the core content areas, world languages, and career and technical education (CTAE), electives, and Advanced Placement. GAVS courses are structured like a traditional class with a fixed schedule and regular due dates. For more information on Georgia Virtual Schools, visit the following website: <http://www.gavirtualschool.org/>

Additional Information

Families in Georgia have a legal right to information related to online learning options and the following is provided to help guide your educational decisions regarding online learning:

- Students may take Fulton and Georgia Virtual courses while still enrolled in their home school. All other external options would require a student to withdraw from Fulton County Schools.
- A student may take an online course even if the course is offered in the local school. If the online course is taken in lieu of any of the regular school day, there will be no charge to the student or

parent. If an online course is chosen outside the school day, the student is responsible for the cost of the course.

- Availability of online courses taken at the school, during the school day, is subject to personnel availability to supervise online students and the school's capacity to accommodate online learners on computers. Check with your school counselor for details regarding availability.
- Middle and High School students may choose to take their virtual courses at home during the school day and need to work with their local schools to schedule those courses. In a part time enrollment situation, students may take their virtual courses either in the morning or afternoon class periods. Then they can, with parent-provided transportation, come in late to school or leave early to complete their virtual coursework.
- For elementary school students, we currently only offer accelerated reading/ELA and Math middle school courses on a part-time enrollment basis. FCS only offers full-time virtual enrollment opportunities for 3rd-5th grade elementary students through Fulton Academy of Virtual Excellence (FAVE).

Fulton County Schools currently offers part-time online learning options to students in grades 3-12 and full-time option for students in grades 6-12. Below are the options for full time and part time online learning:

	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
Full-Time Option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulton Academy of Virtual Excellence (FAVE) <p>External Providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections Academy • Georgia Cyber Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulton Academy of Virtual Excellence (FAVE) • Fulton Virtual (Temporary; Special circumstances with school approval) <p>External Providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections Academy • Georgia Cyber Academy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulton Academy of Virtual Excellence (FAVE) • Fulton Virtual (Temporary; Special circumstances with school approval) <p>External Providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections Academy • Georgia Cyber Academy • Georgia Virtual School
Part-Time Option	Fulton Virtual (For students taking accelerated Middle School Reading/ELA and Math Courses)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulton Virtual <p>External Provider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia Virtual School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulton Virtual <p>External Provider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia Virtual School

Credit Recovery

Credit recovery is a free program for any public high school student that allows the student to retake a course in which he/she previously was not academically successful in earning credit. The available courses are those needed for graduation and limited electives. Fulton County Schools students have access to credit recovery course work through Georgia Virtual Credit recovery and Fulton County Credit Recovery. Students should speak with their counselor if they are interested in enrolling in a credit recovery course.

For more information regarding Georgia credit recovery, please visit this website:

<http://www.gacreditrecovery.org/>

Important Note: Neither Georgia Virtual Credit Recovery (GVCR) nor Fulton County Credit Recovery (FCCR) meets NCAA nontraditional core-course legislation. Aspiring student athletes should not take Credit Recovery course work if they would like to be eligible for NCAA Collegiate Athletics. Please consult your local school counselor if you have additional questions.