



Rahway Public Schools

Proposed Pre-AP ELA Course Sequencing



Current Course Sequence

Grade 7	Grade 8	Grades 9 & 10	Grades 11 & 12
Grade 7 ELA	Grade 8 ELA	Grades 9 & 10 ELA	Grades 11 & 12 ELA
Grade 7 ELA (Honors)	Grade 8 ELA (Honors)	Grades 9 & 10 ELA (Honors)	Grades 11 & 12 ELA (Honors)
			AP Language & Composition
			AP Literature & Composition



NJSLA Data

Grade	2023-2024	2022-2023
Current 7th Graders	Grade 6 NJSLA • 33% of testers met expectations (90/272 students) • 13% of testers exceeded expectations (35/272 students)	Grade 5 NJSLA • 35% of testers met expectations (90/257 students) • 7% of testers exceeded expectations (16/257 students)
Current 8th Graders	Grade 7 NJSLA • 30% of testers met expectations (92/306 students) • 9% of testers exceeded expectations (28/306 students)	Grade 6 NJSLA • 33% of testers met expectations (95/293 students) • 6% of testers exceeded expectations (15/293 students)
Current 9th Graders	Grade 8 NJSLA • 31% of testers met expectations (88/284 students) • 6% of testers exceeded expectations (17/284 students)	Grade 7 NJSLA • 23% of testers met expectations (63/278 students) • 9% of testers exceeded expectations (25/278 students)

Proposed Course Sequencing for 2025-26 School Year

Course	Standards Addressed	Student Population
Grade 7 ELA	NJ Student Learning Standards for ELA (Grade 7)	Most students
Grade 7 ELA Honors	NJ Student Learning Standards for ELA at an accelerated pace (Grade 7)	Select cohort(s) of students
Grade 8 ELA	NJ Student Learning Standards for ELA (Grade 8)	Most students
Grade 8 ELA Honors	NJ Student Learning Standards for ELA at an accelerated pace (Grade 8)	Select cohort(s) of students
Grade 8 Pre-AP English 1	NJ Student Learning Standards for ELA (Grade 9-10 Band) in depth	Small cohort of Grade 8 Accelerated ELA students
Grade 9 ELA	Grade 9 ELA NJ Student Learning Standards	Most students
Grade 9 ELA Honors	Grade 9 ELA NJ Student Learning Standards at an accelerated pace	Select cohort(s) of students



Proposed New Course Offering

Pre-AP English 1

Students believe that if they pay attention, complete assignments, and do well on tests, they'll be ready for college. But that's not always true.

In a research study called *The Opportunity Myth*, most students were given grade-level assignments only a quarter of the time; and underrepresented students received even less (*The Opportunity Myth, TNTP, September 2018*).

Students thrive when provided with four key resources:

1. grade-appropriate assignments
2. strong instruction
3. deep engagement
4. high expectations



Pre-AP English 1

Offered in Grade 8

Pre-AP English 1 focuses on reading, writing, and language skills that are relevant to students' current work and essential for students' future to future high school and college coursework.

Texts take center stage, preparing students for close, critical reading and analytical writing. The course trains readers to observe small details in a text to arrive at a deeper understanding of the whole. It also trains writers to create complex sentences—building this foundational skill en route to sophisticated, longer-form analyses.



Pre-AP English 1

Standards Alignment

Alignment at a Glance: Very Strong

NJ Student Learning Standards for ELA:



- **Reading Literature**
Key Ideas and Details
Craft and Structure
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity
- **Reading Informational Text**
Key Ideas and Details
Craft and Structure
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity
- **Writing**
Text Types and Purposes
Production and Distribution of Writing
Research to Build and Present Knowledge
Range of Writing
- **Speaking and Listening**
Comprehension and Collaboration
Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas
- **Language**
Conventions of Standard English
Knowledge of Language
Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Discipline Highlights

- ✓ Overall, the alignment between the Pre-AP English High School Course Framework and the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for ELA is very strong.
- ✓ Across all strands of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for ELA, the majority of standards are fully covered by the Pre-AP framework.
- ✓ All the Writing standards in the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for ELA are covered in full by the Pre-AP framework.
- ✓ All Reading Literature and Reading Informational Text standards for Craft and Structure, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, and Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity are covered in full by the Pre-AP framework.
- ✓ All Speaking and Listening and Language standards are covered in full or in part by the Pre-AP framework.



Selection Criteria for Pre-AP English 1

Students will be considered for Pre-AP English based on multiple measures to ensure readiness for rigorous coursework:

- Teacher Recommendation
- Report Card Grades
- Spring Renaissance/STAR Reading Diagnostic Scores
- NJSLA ELA Scores

Students must demonstrate “Exceeding Expectations” performance for two consecutive years across key academic indicators.

*Any needed level changes during the school year will be made on an individual student basis using additional data points.



Rationale for Course Offerings

This course sequence provides a vertically aligned pathway that:

- Bridges the gap between middle school and high school expectations, offering students early exposure to high-quality, college-preparatory instruction.
- Strengthens academic readiness by developing skills in evidence-based writing, literary analysis, and text-based discussion—skills emphasized across state standards and AP coursework.
- Expands opportunity and access for historically underrepresented student populations by encouraging broader participation in advanced coursework from an earlier grade.
- Promotes consistency and coherence in curriculum across grade levels, as Pre-AP frameworks are built around shared instructional routines and standards-aligned content.
- Supports teacher development and collaboration, as instructors engage in a shared instructional framework that includes professional learning and resources from College Board.
- Prepares students for long-term academic success, including higher achievement in AP English Literature and AP English Language, as well as SAT, college entrance, and dual enrollment programs.



Next Steps

- **April 2025:** Seek Board of Education approval for new Pre-AP English 1 course offering
- **Spring 2025:** Identify and assign a qualified Pre-AP English 1 teacher
- **Spring 2025:** Labor Management Collaborative (LMC) to vertically align coursework
- **Spring 2025:** Parent Information Forum to introduce the Pre-AP English 1
- **Summer 2025:** Develop curriculum and align instructional materials
- **Summer 2025:** Professional Development for Pre-AP English 1 teacher



Questions?

