

District and Board Goal Presentation



September 23, 2025

Goal 1 - Expand Opportunities - Pathways to College, Career & Beyond

Narrative:

Increase opportunities for our diverse student population by expanding access to specialized programs and enhancing college and career readiness pathways, while ensuring students and families are aware of and able to take advantage of these opportunities.



Initiative 1 - Elective Expo - Exposing Students to Possibilities

Narrative: The elective expo allows students to explore high school electives and career pathways, providing insight into potential academic and career choices.

Rationale: Early exposure to high school options helps students make informed decisions and identify pathways that align with their interests and strengths.

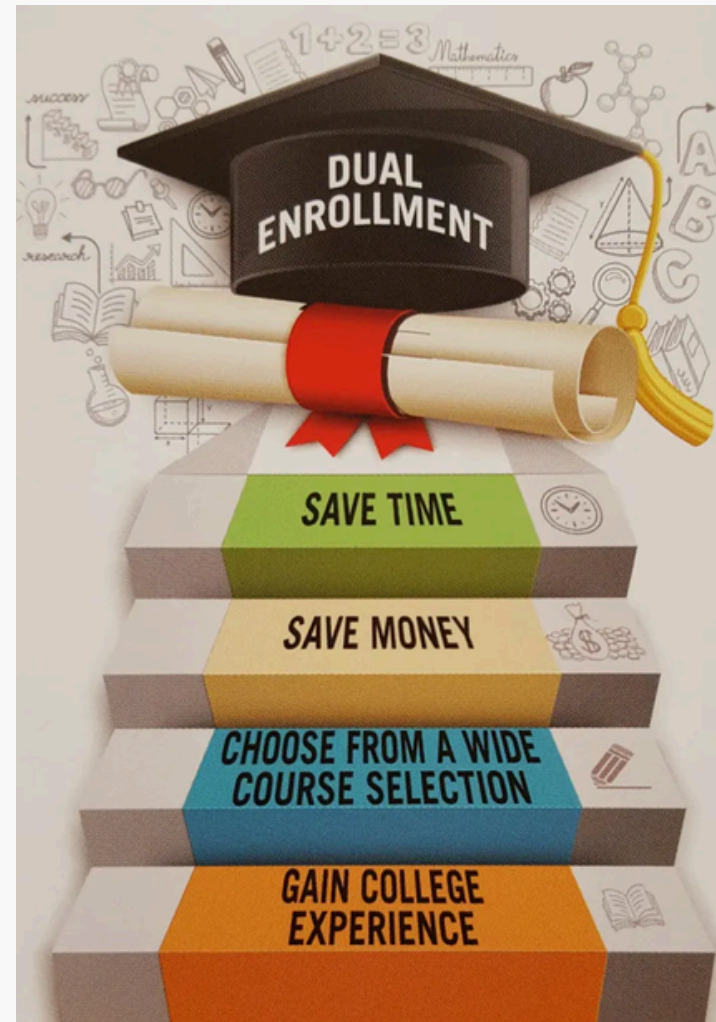


Initiative 2 - Promoting & Expanding Dual Enrollment/Certificated Programs



Narrative

Dual Enrollment opportunities will be promoted in and outside of the classroom. This will include a Dual Enrollment Information Night and utilizing social media and newsletters to keep parents informed.



Rationale

Students and parents will be able to access information that will give them a head start on postsecondary education, reduces college costs, and strengthens career readiness.

**PASSAIC
COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE**



**WILLIAM
PATERSON
UNIVERSITY**



Initiative 3 - Audit and Reboot of Elementary Gifted & Talented Program



Narrative:

- We will audit our current elementary Gifted & Talented Program this fall and design a new, more robust and targeted program for next school year.



Rationale

- This ensures developmentally, appropriate and challenging experiences for our youngest learners, laying a foundation for accelerated pathways in middle and high school.

Initiative 4:

Middle School

1A Accelerated Program



Narrative

- By establishing a middle school accelerated program, students will be provided with high-level coursework with aligned pathways. This will prepare students for honors, AP, Dual Enrollment, and specialized career programs in high school

Rationale

- This initiative equips students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary for college and career success.
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3 Accelerated Pathways



STEM 1A Pathway for Current 5th Grade - Math

2026–2027

Grade 6 Math 1A –
Math 6/7 Accelerated

2027–2028

Grade 7 Math 1A –
Math 7/8 Pre-Algebra

2028–2029

Grade 8 Math 1A –
Algebra 1 (Option 2)

The new 1A Accelerated Program will provide advanced learners with a rigorous pathway beginning in 6th grade. Students will take a compacted sequence of math courses, enabling them to reach Algebra I (a high school-level course) by 8th grade. This program ensures that students are well-prepared for honors, AP, and dual enrollment opportunities in high school.

STEM 1A Pathway for Current 6th Grade - Math

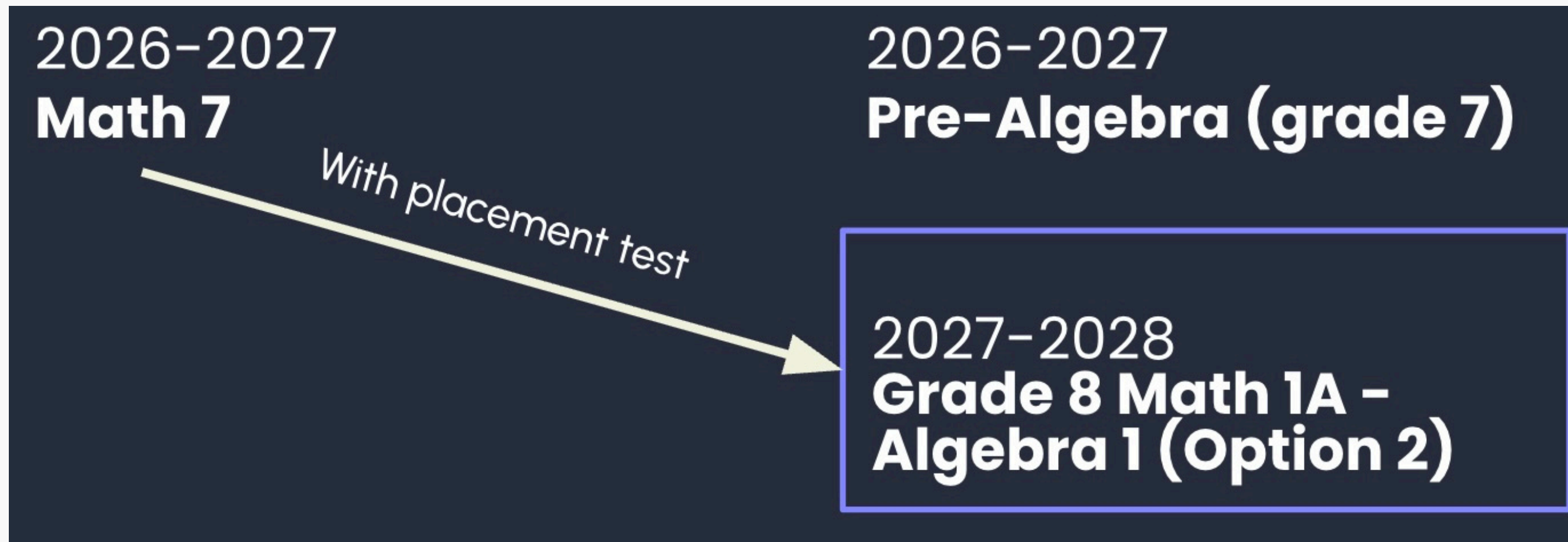
2026–2027
Math 6

2027–2028
Grade 7 Math 1A –
Math 7/8 Pre-Algebra

2028–2029
Grade 8 Math 1A –
Algebra 1 (Option 2)

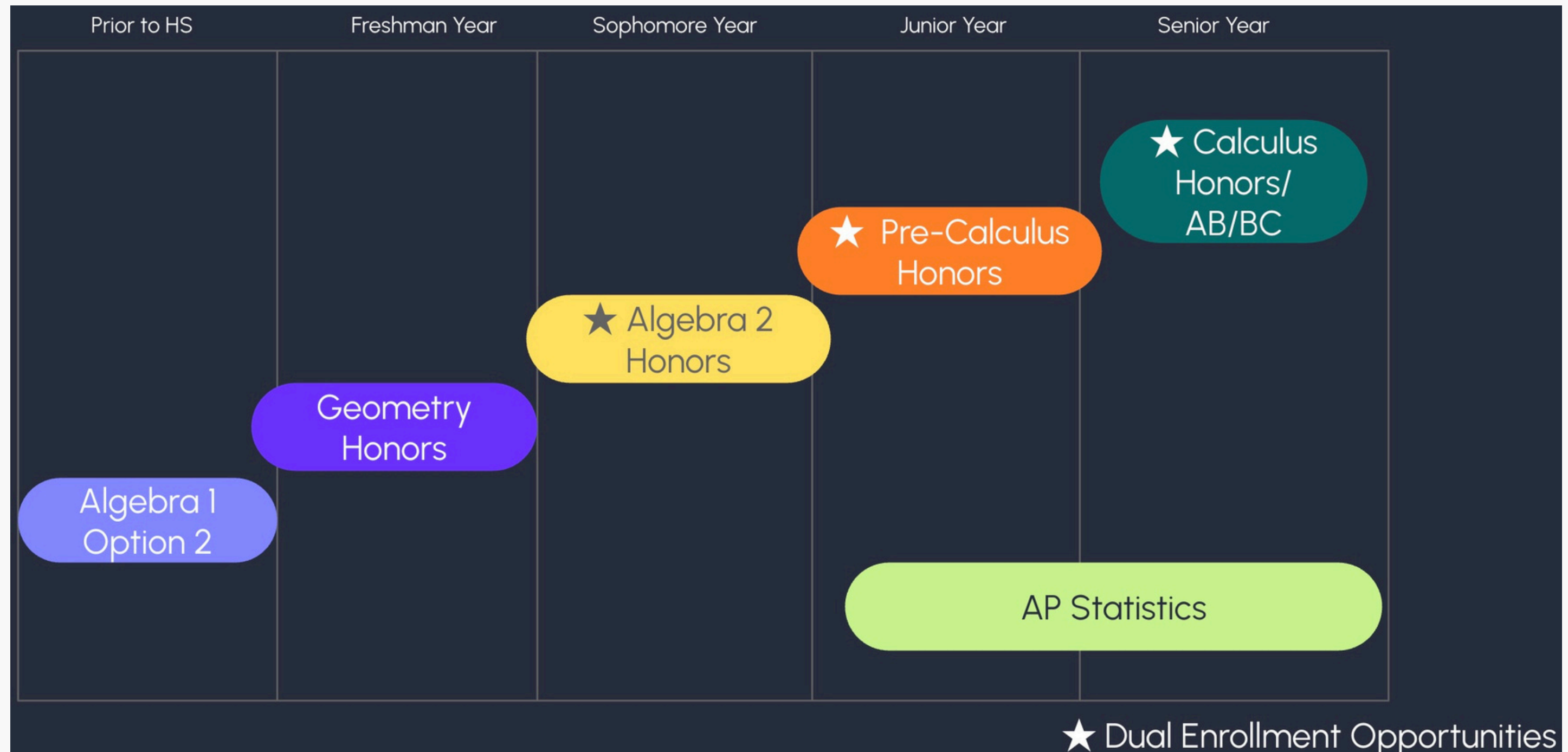
While the new 1A Accelerated Program begins with incoming 6th graders, current 6th grade students will also have the opportunity to enter the program in 7th grade. This ensures access to advanced pathways for students ready to accelerate, even if they were not in the program from the start.

STEM 1A Pathway for Current 7th Grade - Math



Students in our current 7th grade will have multiple options for progression into 8th grade. Those already in Pre-Algebra will continue directly into Algebra I. Students in regular 7th Grade Math will have the opportunity to take a placement test to determine readiness for Algebra I as 8th graders.

STEM 1A High School Pathway - Math



STEM 1A Pathway Science

Core Content is the same as traditional science sequence. The course is then designed with the following enhancements:

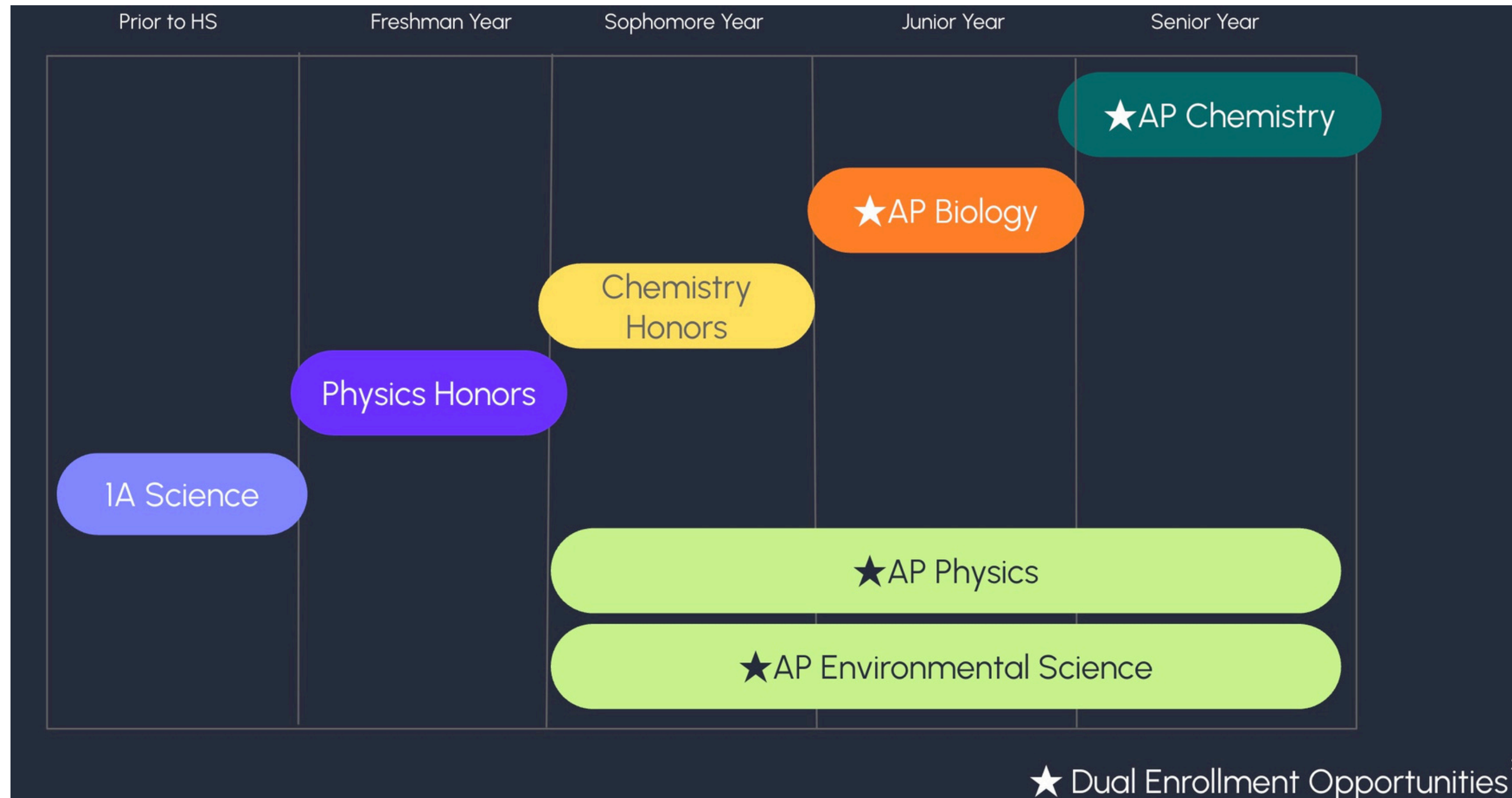
Extended Inquiry & Application: Students will conduct more complex investigations, often integrating data analysis, modeling, and cross-curricular applications in math and technology.

Accelerated Pacing: Core content will be covered at a quicker pace, allowing more time for advanced explorations and interdisciplinary connections.

Phenomenon-Based Problem Solving: Learners will tackle open-ended real-world problems such as climate change impacts, natural disaster prediction, and space exploration challenges.

Three-Dimensional Learning Plus: Instruction will maintain the NGSS three-dimensional model, with increased opportunities to connect practices and crosscutting concepts across multiple science domains.

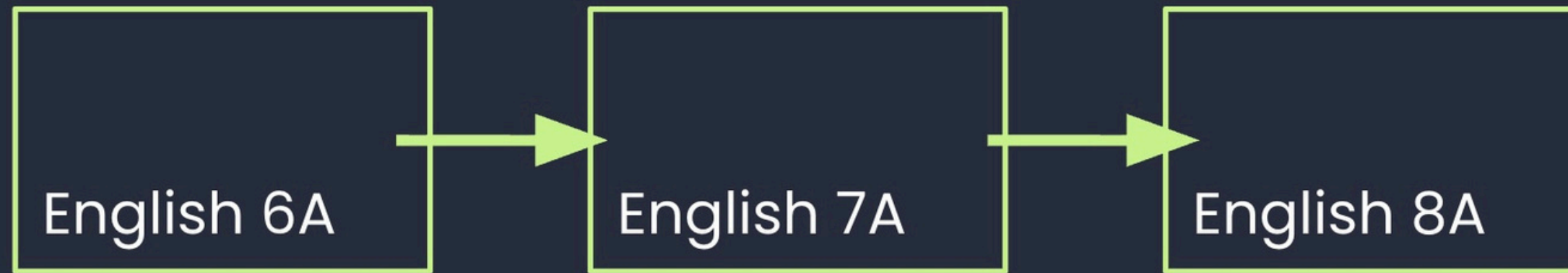
STEM 1A Pathway Science



Eligibility - STEM 1A

- 1. NJSLA Scores*
- 2. Demonstrates Proficiency through Standard-Based Assessments*
- 3. iReady Percentile Ranking*
- 4. Critical Thinking and Academic Behaviors Rubric*
- 5. Placement Test*
- 6. Holistic Evaluation Rubric*

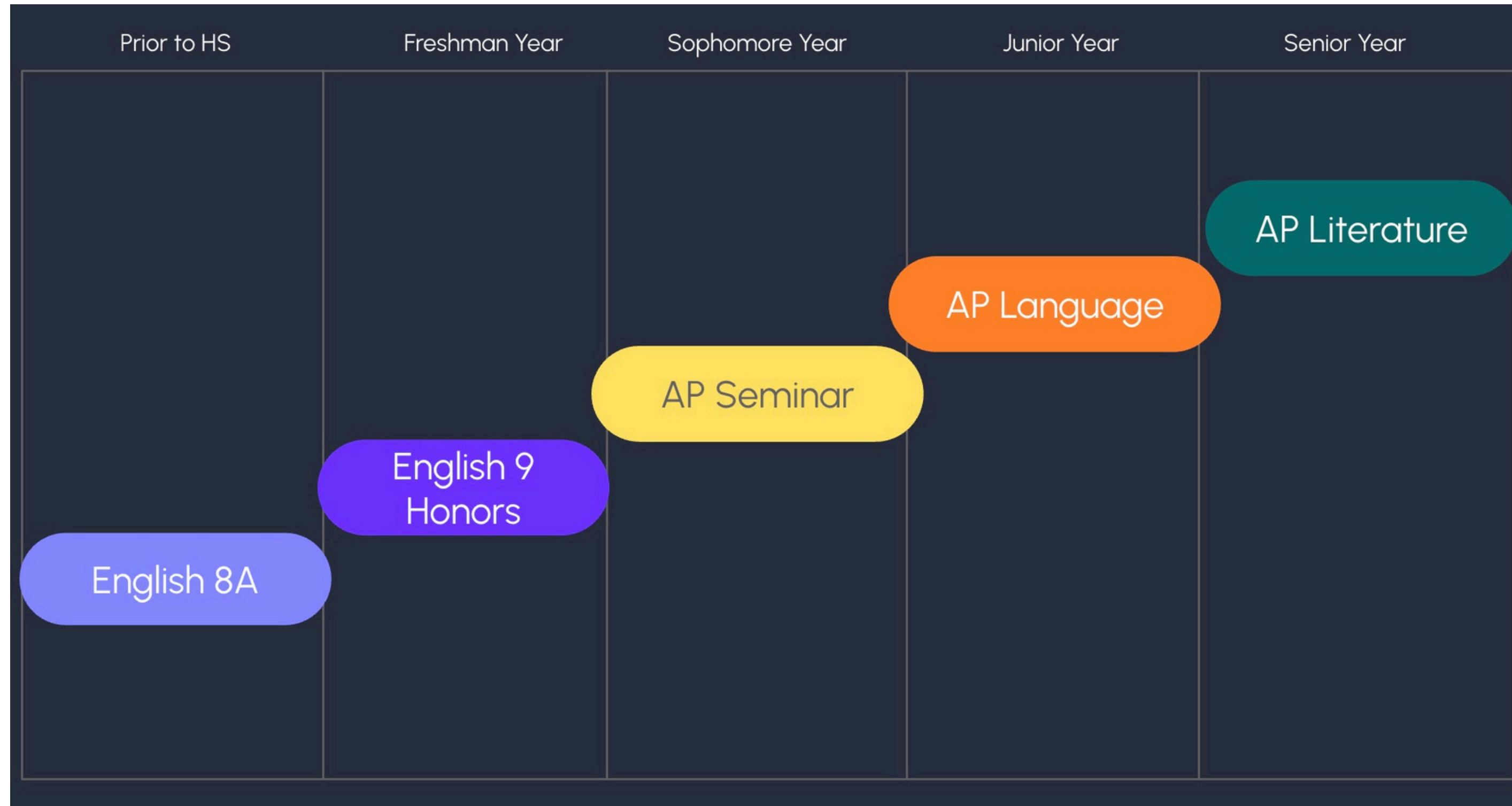
Humanities 1A - English



- 1. Advanced Text Selections**
 - a. Above-grade level Lexile levels
 - b. Complex topics
- 2. Accelerated Pace**
 - a. Resulting increased exposure to literature, nonfiction, supplementary connections, opportunities for expansion
- 3. Increased Independence**
 - a. Heightened reading/writing expectations
 - b. Student-led inquiry



Humanities 1A Pathway - English



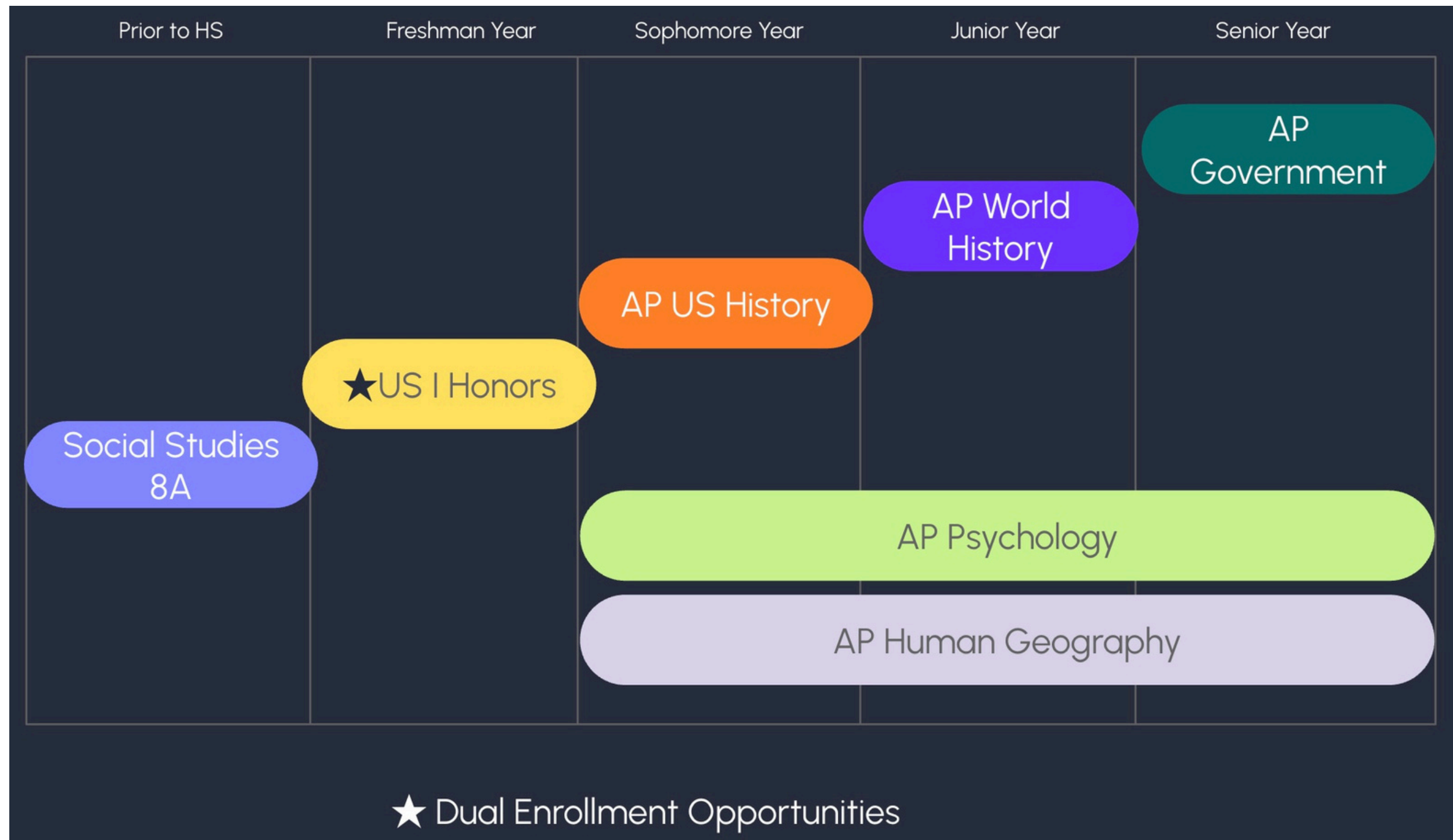
Humanities 1A - Social Studies



- 1. Deep Engagement with Primary Sources**
 - a. Vertically aligned, accelerated DBQ writing preparation
 - b. Integration of various media, historic language/terminology
- 2. Historical Inquiry**
 - a. Evaluating multiple perspectives
 - b. Determining reliability and context of sources
- 3. Sustained Research Opportunities**
 - a. Supporting students in making connections between past, present and future



Humanities 1A Pathway - Social Studies



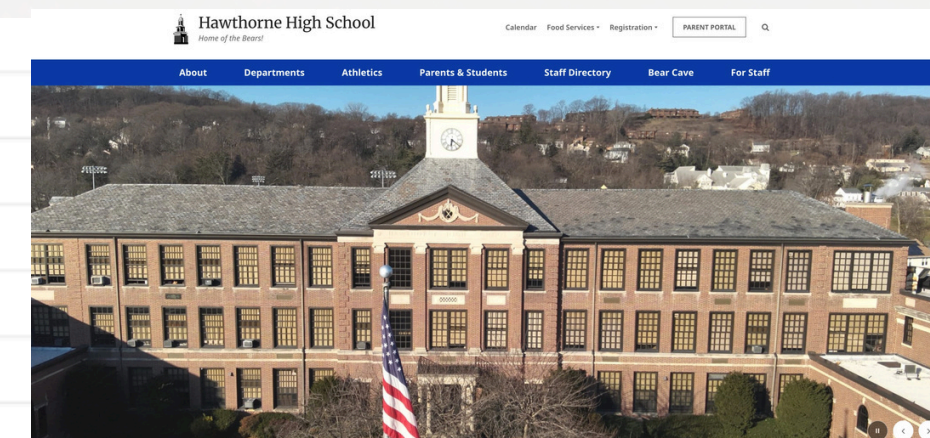
Eligibility - Humanities 1A

- 1. NJSLA Scores*
- 2. Demonstrates Proficiency through Standard-Based Assessments*
- 3. iReady Percentile Ranking*
- 4. Critical Thinking and Academic Behaviors Rubric*
- 5. Placement Test*
- 6. Holistic Evaluation Rubric*

Goal 2 - Communication & Community Engagement

Narrative: We are committed to strengthening transparency and building pride in our schools. By expanding communication channels and highlighting successes, we will keep families informed and deepen our partnership with the community.

Rationale: Clear, consistent communication ensures parents, staff, and community members are connected to our schools. Celebrating achievements and engaging in community events builds trust, fosters support, and strengthens Hawthorne's identity as a district that values collaboration and shared success.



Goal 3 – Rigorous Learning for Lifelong Success

Narrative:

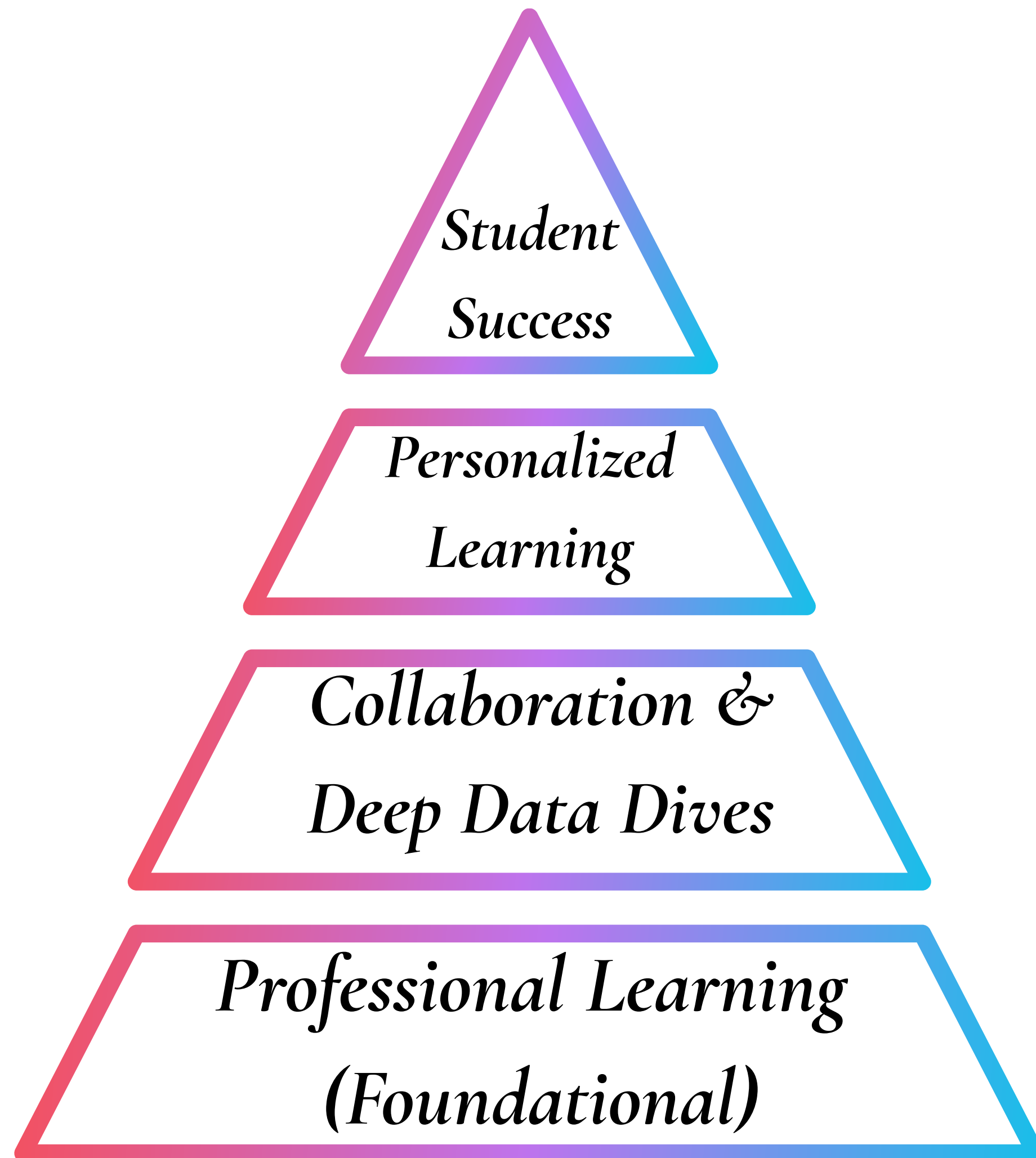
We are strengthening teaching and learning by investing in **professional development**, **collaborative team structures**, and **effective assessment tools**. Identifying gaps early allows for differentiation and growth mindset strategies that will ensure all students are challenged while still supported

Rationale:

This goal reflects our commitment to rigor and equity. Professional development sharpens instructional practice, collaboration builds shared accountability, and data from tools like iReady guide targeted support and make all students successful.



*Equity + Rigor =
Lifelong Success*



Hawthorne School

Board of Education Goals

2025-2026



Goal 1 - Establish a New Mission Through Inclusive Community Engagement

Objective - To collaboratively develop a new mission and vision statement that reflects the shared values, aspirations, and priorities of our diverse school community, ensuring broad-based input and alignment with the district's long-term strategic goals

Action Steps

- *Launch Community Engagement Session*
- *Conduct Surveys and Focus Groups*
- *Draft and Refine Statements*
- *Board Adoption and Launch*

Goal 2 - Celebrate and Elevate Student and Staff Achievement Across the District

Objective - To foster a culture of excellence by recognizing and celebrating high levels of student academic achievement, positive character, and staff accomplishments. The board will explore and implement formal recognition programs to inspire pride, motivation, and continued success throughout the school community.

Action Steps

- Establish a Recognition Framework*
- Introduce Character & Achievement Awards Program*
- Highlight Achievement at Board Meetings*
- Engage Stakeholders in Nominations*

Goal 3 - Strengthen Board Governance Through Improved Meeting Structure and Strategic Focus

Objective - To enhance the effectiveness, transparency, and alignment with district priorities by refining governance practices - specifically through restructured committee reporting, more purposeful agenda planning, and a renewed emphasis on student achievement and strategic issues during board meetings.

Action Steps

- Review and Revise Committee Report Structure*
- Prioritize Committee Reports Early in the Agenda*
- Formalize President-Superintendent Agenda Planning*
- Embed Strategic Focus on Student Achievement*



Thank you

