
POLICY ADDRESSING ENROLLMENT IN AN ADVANCED COURSE OR PROGRAM AND CHALLENGING CURRICULUM

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

I. Definitions

For purposes of this policy:

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

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

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

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

II. Eligibility Criteria

Students will be eligible to enroll in advanced courses or programs throughout their high school career, even if they are not identified as eligible in grades eight or nine.

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

- Recommendations from teachers, administrators, school counselors or other school personnel.

- A student's prior academic performance, as determined by evidence-based indicators of how a student will perform in an advanced course or program.
- The District administration may, in its discretion, identify and publicize additional criteria, including but not limited to student or parent request. Any such criteria shall be established prior to the commencement of an academic term.

III. Guiding Principles and Implementation

The Board recognizes that course access and academic planning should be guided by considerations beyond traditional course eligibility criteria.

The District will utilize practices designed to ensure that eligibility for enrollment in an advanced course or program, including appropriate evaluation and testing procedures, do not screen out students who are English learners/multilingual learners because of their limited English proficiency unless an advanced or specialized program is demonstrated to require proficiency in English for meaningful participation.

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

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221w

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221x

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

United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, *Ensuring Meaningful Participation in Advanced Coursework and Specialized Programs for Students Who Are English Learners* (June 2023)

ADOPTED: _____

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS ADDRESSING ENROLLMENT IN AN
ADVANCED COURSE OR PROGRAM AND CHALLENGING CURRICULUM**

The Ansonia Board of Education (the “Board”) understands the importance of providing opportunities for students to enroll in an advanced course or program and offering students challenging curriculum in the Ansonia Public Schools (the “District”). In accordance with the Board’s Policy Addressing Enrollment in an Advanced Course or Program and Challenging Curriculum, the administration adopts the following regulations:

1. Students will be eligible to enroll in advanced courses or programs throughout their high school career, even if they are not identified as eligible in grades eight or nine.
2. Eligibility for enrollment in an advanced course or program shall be based on the following:
 - Recommendations from teachers, administrators, school counselors or other school personnel.
 - A student’s prior academic performance, as determined by evidence-based indicators of how a student will perform in an advanced course or program.
 - The District administration may, in its discretion, identify and publicize additional criteria, including but not limited to student or parent request. Any such criteria shall be established prior to the commencement of an academic term.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221w
Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221x
Connecticut State Department of Education, *District Guidance for Developing an Advanced Course Participation Policy* (April 2022)
United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, *Ensuring Meaningful Participation in Advanced Coursework and Specialized Programs for Students Who Are English Learners* (June 2023)