

SOMERSET INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ADVANCED COURSEWORK AND ACCELERATED LEARNING PLAN



HB 190 (2025) and Board Policy 08.1122 outline that the district shall adopt a plan establishing policies on the promotion of advanced coursework and accelerated learning in language arts, mathematics, social studies and science by grade level in grades four through twelve.

DEFINITIONS

Advanced coursework means "educational programs or opportunities designed to challenge students with more rigorous content beyond the standard curriculum, including but not limited to advanced placement and honors courses," (KRS 158.6453 (1)(b)).

Accelerated learning means "an organized way of helping students meet individual academic goals by providing direct instruction to eliminate student performance deficiencies or enable students to move more quickly through course requirements and pursue higher level skill development," (KRS 158.6453 (1)(a)).

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION IN ADVANCED COURSEWORK & ACCELERATED LEARNING

Long-term benefits of advanced coursework include improved college readiness, a head start on college credits, and higher rates of high school graduation and college enrollment. Students develop crucial skills like critical thinking, time management, and resilience, which contribute to greater confidence and academic success in college and beyond.

STRATEGIES BY GRADE BAND

The Somerset Board of Education has been promoting accelerated classes from upper elementary grades through high school for more than 25 years with the development of accelerated classes for grades 5-7, 8th grade classes that are offered for high school credit, as well as accelerated courses, Advanced Placement and dual credit classes at Somerset High School.

Grade Band	Strategies for Advanced Coursework & Accelerated Learning
Grades 4-7	Enrichment lessons and differentiation in core subjects. Resource classes for identified gifted and talented students. Accelerated classes in grades 5-7 for mathematics and science.
Grade 8	Enrichment lessons and differentiation in core subjects. Resource classes for identified gifted and talented students. Accelerated classes in language arts, mathematics, and science for high school credit per board policy.
Grades 9-12	Enrichment lessons and differentiation in core subjects. Accelerated classes in mathematics and science. Advanced Placement course offerings in language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. Dual credit course offerings in language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. Carnegie Diploma offering is an advanced high school diploma.

ELIGIBILITY

School Board Policy 08.1131 outlines accelerated courses, dual credit, and middle school acceleration opportunities for students in Somerset Independent Schools. Eligibility for middle school acceleration is based on three identification tools including the student's previous grades, norm reference testing and district content/standards-based assessment.

The district encourages open enrollment for high school accelerated and Advanced Placement classes. Students may discuss these options with the teacher or guidance counselor when scheduling conferences are conducted each spring. Any prerequisites will be noted in the SHS Course Guide.

Eligibility for dual credit is based on the criteria set by the participating post-secondary institution.

GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS

School Board Policy 08.132 describes the process for identification of students for participation in the district Gifted and Talented Program. Students identified as Gifted and Talented may participate in advanced course work and accelerated learning. We also provide enrichment classes and other opportunities for these students that are not extracurricular during the school day, resource services delivered in a pull-out classroom for identified students in grades 4-8 and differentiated study experiences for individuals and groups within the regular classroom.

PARENT NOTIFICATION

Parental consent for participation in middle school accelerated courses is obtained after parent notification of eligibility for enrollment. Parents will also be notified by letter and/or phone call when a middle school student enrolled in an accelerated class has a grade below a "B" at mid-term or end of term. After the second notice, with consultation of the teacher, the student will be placed in a different class due to the advanced coursework having an adverse educational impact on the student.

Parental consent is obtained for students to enroll or withdraw from dual credit courses at the high school.

