INSTRUCTION
Series 6000
Policy #6001.1.1

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

The EASTCONN Board of Directors (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 EASTCONN 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, 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

Consistent with state law, the District will identify students who may be eligible to take or enroll in an advanced course or program.

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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.
- EASTCONN schools will also consider a student's habits of scholarship, as outlined in the Portrait of the Graduate or Learner, when determining readiness for high-level coursework.

III. Creation of an Academic Plan/Challenging Curriculum

The District will create an academic plan for each student who is identified as eligible for enrollment in an advanced course or program. Such plan will be designed to enroll the student in one or more advanced courses or programs and allow the student to earn college credit or result in career readiness. Such academic plan will also be aligned with:

- The courses or programs offered by the Board,
- The student's student success plan, created pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221a(k),
- High school graduation requirements, and
- Any other policies or standards adopted by the Board relating to the eligibility for student enrollment in advanced courses or programs.

The academic plan may be part of the student's success plan, which plan is required for each student by Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-221a.

A student, or the student's parent or guardian, may decline to implement the provisions of an academic plan created for such student.

IV. Guiding Principles and Implementation

The Board recognizes that course access and academic planning should be guided by considerations beyond traditional course eligibility criteria. Specifically, the Board recognizes that academic achievement and engagement in school are strong precursors to high school success. In addition, the Board recognizes the importance of engaging with a student's parents and/or guardians throughout the student's educational experience, reducing barriers to opportunities for advanced courses and programs, and providing a wide range of advanced courses that appeal to students with various interests

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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 Executive Director 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: August 25, 2026
Revised:
Replaces:

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