Graves County Schools

Advanced Coursework & Accelerated Learning Plan

Introduction

In 2025, KRS 158.6453 and HB 190 were amended to require school districts to establish a comprehensive plan outlining clear policies for promoting advanced coursework and accelerated learning opportunities in language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science for students in grades four through twelve. This plan outlines how Graves County Schools will provide equitable access to rigorous, high-quality academic opportunities that allow students to reach their full potential. The plan was developed with input from key stakeholders within our district and community and was adopted by the Graves County Board of Education on November 20, 2025.

Definitions

Advanced coursework is defined as educational programs or opportunities designed to challenge students with more rigorous content beyond the standard curriculum, including but not limited to Advanced Placement (AP), dual credit, honors courses and enrichment opportunities.. Accelerated learning is defined as an organized way of helping students meet individual academic goals by providing direct instruction to eliminate performance deficiencies or enable students to move more quickly through course requirements and pursue higher-level skill development. Differentiation is the process of tailoring instruction and learning experiences to meet the needs of students.

District Promotion of Advanced Coursework

This plan will be posted in an accessible location on the district website, and schools will actively promote enrollment in advanced coursework to all eligible students. Communication with families and students will occur through newsletters, school websites, and academic advising to ensure awareness of opportunities. Teachers and counselors will encourage students who demonstrate readiness for advanced learning to participate, ensuring that all qualified students have equitable access regardless of background or previous experience.

Placement and Eligibility

Local School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) councils will determine placement criteria for advanced coursework based on district guidance and available resources. Placement decisions may consider universal screener data, benchmark and state assessment results, grades, attendance, behavior, teacher or counselor recommendations, and both student and parent preference. Students who score distinguished in any subject area on the most recent statewide assessment may be automatically enrolled in advanced coursework in that subject or a related area. Other indicators, such as performance in the ninth stanine on a norm-referenced test or demonstrated readiness on local assessments, may also be used to determine eligibility.

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Elementary (Grades 4–6)

At the elementary level, Graves County Schools will offer advanced coursework in language arts and mathematics for grades four through six. Schools may provide this advanced learning through differentiated Tier 1 instruction or by offering acceleration during a designated flex or enrichment block. While there are no guaranteed accelerated options for science and social studies at this level, enrichment opportunities may be provided as part of interdisciplinary instruction.

Middle School (Grades 7–8)

Advanced coursework in middle school may include high school equivalent classes as outlined in KRS 158.622, such as Algebra I. In addition, students in grades seven and eight may have access to accelerated classes or differentiated instruction in English, mathematics, science, and social studies. The availability of these courses is determined by factors such as student readiness, scheduling, and staffing capacity, with the goal of ensuring that all students have equitable access to advanced learning opportunities.

High School (Grades 9–12)

At the high school level, Graves County Schools will offer advanced coursework in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies through a variety of honors, Advanced Placement, dual credit, and accelerated classes. Courses include but are not limited to English I–IV, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, U.S. History, and CTE Pathways. Dual credit opportunities will be available through partnerships with postsecondary institutions. Additionally, students may apply for special schools including but not limited to Gatton Academy and Craft Academy.

Gifted and Talented Students

The district's Gifted and Talented Coordinator will collaborate with schools to ensure compliance with KRS 158.6453 and 704 KAR 3:285. Students identified as gifted and talented in language arts, mathematics, social studies, or science will receive multiple service delivery options that may include accelerated learning or advanced coursework. Service delivery may also include collaborative teaching and consultation, differentiated study experiences, enrichment during the school day, independent study, mentorships, resource or pull-out services, distance learning, seminars, travel study, or participation in special programs such as the Gatton Academy. No single service delivery model shall exist alone districtwide at any grade level.