



**Policy Code:**

**6141.51**

## **Challenging Curriculum and Advanced Course Participation**

The Board of Education of the Stratford Public Schools believes that all students will succeed through high quality learning experiences and access to coursework that is challenging for them.

The Superintendent or his/her designee is directed to develop, implement, and publish District procedures consistent with guidance provided by the Department of Education for the identification of students in grades eight and nine who may be eligible to take or enroll in an advanced course or program. By Connecticut general statutes “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 a local or regional board of education in grades nine to twelve, inclusive.

Such procedures shall include recommendations by school personnel, and shall not be based exclusively on a student’s prior academic performance. “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.

The Superintendent or his/her designee is directed to create an academic plan for each student identified. Each academic plan developed shall become a part of the student success plan for the identified student, and shall be aligned with all local and state requirements for graduation.

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 6146.1 - Grading)

(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)

(cf. 0525.1) - Anti-Racism - Confronting Racism in Schools

(cf. 0523) - Equity and Diversity

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes 10-221w, 10-221x P.A. 21-199 - AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE STATUTES RELATING TO EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



## **Guidelines**

### Multiple methods for ID:

- Grading Policy Requirements
  - "Access to advanced level courses (Honors, AP, Dual Enrollment, etc.) is open to all students who have passed any prerequisite courses listed in the program of studies. In addition, teachers, administrators, school counselors, or other school personnel may recommend students who have shown academic promise and in order to encourage enrollment in an advanced course or program. Assessment scores may be used to identify additional students who may be ready for an advanced level of coursework."
- Teacher, administrator, school counselor, or other school personnel recommendations
- Evidence-based indicators of academic performance

### Multiple methods for communication:

- Middle School and High School Orientations / Step Up Days
- Program of studies
- CT State Department of Education "Advanced Coursework" letters
- Teachers to students
- Counselors to students
- Student self-advocacy

### Process:

- Implementation will align with courses/experiences offered by Stratford Public Schools.
- A list of courses/experiences qualifying as advanced will be maintained by the district.
- Students have the opportunity to enroll in one or more courses that provide challenge for the student.
  - Students earn college credit or demonstrate career readiness.
  - Consider additional opportunities for courses that qualify as advanced/challenging (e.g., dual enrollment, honors designation, internships, etc.)
  - Most Middle School Dual Language students will be eligible for high school-level courses.
- Student engagement in advanced/challenging coursework will be documented in a district database.