

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

PROGRAM  
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Academic Placement

2314 ACADEMIC PLACEMENT

The primary purpose of academic placement recommendations is to provide meaningful, non-binding guidance to ensure that all students receive an academic program that will encourage and guide academic success and insure college readiness.

Placement recommendations will take into account students' strengths and needs and provide the support students need to achieve that success.

The academic placement recommendation process will include multiple measures and involve the following key elements:

- Assessment of the student's current academic performance
- Review of available test data about the student
- Assessment of academic requirements of the next course in the sequence
- Teacher judgment regarding the course level that will best meet the academic needs of the student
- Consultation with the parent/guardian and consideration of the student's preference

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Academic placement recommendations should be given serious consideration by students and their parents or guardians, however, the recommendations, however, are non-binding. All students shall have access to, and the ability to choose between different educational programs in all academic subjects, and at all academic levels. The Board encourages students to challenge themselves by pursuing courses with the highest academic rigor that will prepare them for success in college or the workforce. The Board shall also make every effort to ensure that enrollment in classes at advanced levels proportionately reflects the demographic profile of the individual school-at the highest reasonable level consistent with governing law and the Board's commitment to equal opportunity for all students. The Superintendent shall develop and promulgate regulations for a variety of outreach methods that will provide necessary communication to all households regarding this Policy, and to encourage traditionally underrepresented populations to take advantage of all academic offerings.

The creation or elimination of any academic or enrichment programs in which students are placed pursuant to the factors above shall require Board approval and shall include a plan for measuring the success of the changes proposed. Any program changes that do not require Board approval, including temporary pilot programs of a duration of less than two years, shall nevertheless require prior board and parental notification. Pilot programs of a duration of less than two years shall not require board approval, but shall require prior board and parental notification. At the end of two years, any program for which an extension or permanent status is sought must have board approval. At the end of two years, any program for which an extension or permanent status is sought must have Board approval.

Within six months of passage of this Policy, the Superintendent shall develop a timetable for a Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade curricular alignment, ensuring that all students develop the knowledge and skills fundamental to successful performance in Advanced Placement and advanced level courses by providing the highest levels of academic rigor in all Kindergarten, Elementary, Middle and High School courses. The Superintendent shall also develop and implement regulations within six months of passage

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of this Policy for the development of academic placement recommendations for students, including an appeals process for students and parents/guardians to exercise their right of access and choice, in accordance with this policy. ~~and implement regulations for the development of academic placement recommendations for of students, including an appeals process for students to exercise their right of access and choice, in accordance with this policy.~~

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~~Initial Adoption~~ Previous adoptions: June 14, 2010 & July 18, 2011

First Reading: ~~June 20, 2011~~ November 16, 2015  
Second Reading: ~~July 18, 2011~~  
Latest Adoption: ~~July 18, 2011~~