

ABINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
ABINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

SUPERINTENDENT'S
ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

REGARDING: **Course Placement and
Selection**

Section: **Curriculum**

Effective Date: February 2006

Reissued: 11/07, 8/26/08, 10/25/11,
12/17/14, 9/18/15,
2/28/17, 10/25/19, 9/9/21,
8/25/22, 8/16/24

See Also: Related Board Policy;
Board Policy and SAP
Regarding Grade Levels –
Age-To-Grade Relationship

ELEMENTARY

The elementary school instructional program consists of a Pennsylvania Academic or Core Standards-Based Curriculum in each of the following areas: English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, art, and music. Appropriate grade level skills and concepts are delineated in the planned course of study for each subject area. As detailed in the Superintendent's Administrative Procedure for "Grade Levels – Age-to-Grade Relationship," a student's grade placement is the grade level to which the student has normally progressed.

To address the issue of appropriate placement for students who demonstrate superior achievement in mathematics, a curriculum-based Mathematics Placement Test will be administered in the spring to students in grades K-5 who have Gifted IEPs or to students in grades 3-5 who, during the first and second marking periods, have earned grades of Advanced in each of the mathematics standards categories as listed in the Report of Student Progress. The results of this assessment will be used to determine the appropriate grade level placement for mathematics. If a student demonstrates achievement that makes the student eligible to study mathematics at an advanced grade level, the principal will schedule a meeting with the Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, the building Elementary Curriculum Specialist, and the parents/guardians of the student. At this conference, the Elementary Curriculum Specialist will present the results of the placement testing and the Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning will advise the parents/guardians of the long-term course placement circumstances that will result from subject area acceleration. The parents/guardians are to be asked to submit in writing to the principal their decision about the proposed course acceleration for their student.

If a student excels in English Language Arts (ELA), science, or social studies, the classroom teacher will utilize beyond-level and/or enriching instructional materials, activities, and assignments. These may include, but are not limited to, curriculum-based above-level readers, computer-based instruction, etc.

If a student excels in multiple subject areas, the student may be considered for grade level acceleration. Procedures for grade level acceleration are detailed in the Superintendent's Administrative Procedure regarding "Grade Levels – Age-to-Grade Relationship."

SECONDARY

The secondary school instructional program offers honors, advanced placement and college preparatory courses in the core areas of English, mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition, specific grade levels have required courses in art, music, health and physical education, and design thinking education. The secondary program also includes electives in art, business and information systems, computer science, English, Family and Consumer Science, music, reading, science, social studies, technology education, and world languages.

Academic proficiency is the critical element and should take priority in decisions concerning course selection. Parents/guardians are an integral part of the course selection process and are provided an opportunity to indicate for their student applicable course selections for honors/advanced placement courses, college preparatory courses, and elective courses. Open enrollment is available for all courses; however, a decision to select an honors/advanced placement course should reflect academic proficiency and teacher recommendations. Teacher recommendations are to be based upon review of the student's most recent standardized test scores, classroom performance, completion of course prerequisites, and consultation with the department chairperson and the guidance counselor. No single criteria will automatically exclude any student from a course.

Information concerning graduation requirements as well as required and elective courses to be offered at the senior high school is published annually in the *Program of Studies for grades 9-12* while information about the middle school program is published in the *Program of Studies for grades 6-8*.