



CONTINUOUS ACHIEVEMENT: PROVIDING A CHALLENGING CURRICULUM FOR ALL

How does Fulton County Schools (FCS) provide an appropriately challenging curriculum for all students?

The Fulton County Board of Education supports our vision that each child should be given the opportunity to learn to his or her full potential. To that end, our continuous achievement framework for advancement allows each child to progress in language arts and math at his or her appropriate instructional pace and depth, expanding and compacting the curriculum as appropriate. The framework is implemented in all elementary and middle schools and includes a process for advancement in the current grade level and an acceleration process which allows a student to advance above grade level. Within the continuous achievement framework, each student will be placed in an “on-level”, “advanced”, or “accelerated” curriculum.

How does FCS define the on-level curriculum?

The on-level curriculum is aligned to Georgia Standards of Excellence for the grade level to which the student is assigned. The on-level curriculum is fully implemented and available to students in grades K-8.

How does FCS define the advanced curriculum?

The advanced curriculum is written at a different pace, depth and instructional level than the on-level curriculum, in order to provide appropriate rigor and challenge for students.

In reading/language arts, the advanced curriculum is aligned to on-grade level standards and includes standards from the next grade level. In the advanced curriculum, the student can expect to read or write independently and proficiently complex text beyond what is assigned in the on-grade level curriculum. The advanced curriculum for reading/language arts is fully implemented and available to students in grades 1-8. Teachers in the primary grades of K and 1 provide differentiation within a grade-level curriculum through on-going flexible grouping that is geared to the level of challenge and pacing needs of students. Beginning second semester of first grade, students may progress to the advanced curriculum.

In mathematics, the advanced curriculum for grades K-5 is aligned to the second semester standards assigned for the student’s grade level and first semester standards assigned for the student’s next grade level. The pace of instruction is driven by the pace at which the student is able to achieve in-depth mastery of the standards. The advanced curriculum for Grade 6 Math consists of Grade 6 second semester standards and all Grade 7 Math standards. In order to ensure that advanced fifth graders are prepared for this accelerated pace, they will take an assessment over 6.1 content at the end of Grade 5. They must score an 80% or higher to be recommended for Grade 6 Math Advanced. Students who successfully complete the Math 6 Advanced course will be prepared for to take Math 8 in Grade 7 and Algebra I in Grade 8.

How does FCS define the accelerated curriculum?

The accelerated curriculum is aligned entirely to the standards one or more years above the assigned grade level. Students are accelerated when they demonstrate exceptional

performance for their age appropriate grade level and exhibit strong skills for advancing a grade level. The accelerated curriculum in reading/language arts and mathematics is available to students in grades K-8.

How are students' continuous achievement needs met in middle school?

Middle grade students are afforded several opportunities to be placed in an advanced or accelerated curriculum provided they meet the placement criteria for the particular subject area. For students who are developmentally and academically ready to learn at a deeper level, a more compacted pace, and who can read novels that have abstract themes, an advanced language arts course is provided in grades 6-8. An accelerated language arts course is available for students in grades 6-8. For students who score on/above level on the reading indicator of the grade 5 Georgia Milestones Assessment a World Language course can be taken in grades 6-8 instead of reading. In sixth grade advanced math, students condense three semesters of math into two semesters and complete 6.2, 7.1 and 7.2 math.

How is a student's placement in the appropriate curriculum determined?

Students are placed in the appropriate curriculum based on performance on system-level diagnostic assessments, standardized test data, student grades, and teacher recommendation. Recommendations concerning instructional placement and progress of students shall be the responsibility of the local school teacher and other professional staff directly involved with the student. Although the guidelines for acceleration provide criteria for a high percentage of mastery on system-level diagnostic assessments, overall aptitude demonstrated by the collective evidence of past performance and teacher feedback will be considered, with the best interest of the students in mind.

Provisions will be made for parents of students not recommended for the advanced or accelerated levels to request a waiver for their student to be placed at these levels of instruction. A form for such requests may be obtained from the principal. All requests for a waiver must be made within 5 business days of receiving notification of a student's placement for the upcoming semester. However, outside of the five-day window, the decision to honor a waiver rests with the principal.

A student's placement in a course will be reviewed at a minimum every 18 weeks to determine if the placement is appropriate in meeting the student's learning needs.

What provisions are made for students accelerated two or more years ahead of their grade-level peers?

Instruction may be provided through Fulton Virtual School, or transportation to the zoned middle or high school may be provided for face-to-face instruction.

How might students accelerate their learning over the summer?

Students may accelerate their learning over the summer by taking virtual courses. For example, a rising sixth grader may wish to take Math 6.2 in order to accelerate to Math 7.

Students who wish to accelerate their learning can see all available courses by visiting www.fultonschools.org/fultonvirtual. School Counselors will provide guidance on appropriate learning paths and approve summer courses. Tuition is \$225 (\$180 with free reduced meal status) for each semester-long course.

For additional questions, contact Amy Barger, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching at barger@fultonschools.org or 470-254-4943.