

**Lowndes County School District
Advanced Placement Program Policy**

The purpose of the policy is to comply with the Consent Order of January 10, 2006 in the District’s federal desegregation case and to comply with Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-39 by ensuring that all students have a sufficient education for success after high school and that all students have equal access to a substantive and rigorous curriculum designed to challenge their minds and enhance their knowledge. The goal of the policy is to identify students for participation in and to increase enrollment in accelerated or honors courses, AP courses, and upper-level language courses at all middle and high school but especially at West Lowndes Middle School and West Lowndes High School.

Advanced Placement Program

The District has an Advanced Placement Program which consists of all accelerated or honors courses, advanced placement courses, and upper-level language courses. The Program begins with math courses in the seventh grade, adds English courses in the ninth grade, and continues toward advanced placement (AP) courses in high school. The District’s Advanced Placement program is based on the Mississippi Department of Education’s “*Suggested Outcomes for Academically Gifted Education Programs, Grades 9-12 in Mississippi,*” which recommends the components and outcomes for courses in the Program, and on the College Board Advanced Placement approved syllabi.

Beginning in the seventh grade, four different tracks or sequences of math courses, which are based on the Mississippi Department of Education Math Framework, are offered to students as follows:

Grade Level	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4
7	7 th Grade Math	7 th Grade Math	Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra
8	Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra	Transition to Algebra	Algebra I
9	Transition to Algebra	Algebra I	Algebra I	Geometry
10	Algebra I	Geometry	Geometry	Algebra II
11	Geometry	Algebra II	Algebra II	Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, or Elective
12	Algebra II	Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, or Elective	Advanced Algebra, Trigonometry, or Elective	Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Statistics, or Elective

Beginning in the ninth grade, accelerated or honors English classes are offered to all students.

Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, all high schools in the District must offer at least one AP course in each of the four core areas (mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies). All high school AP classes will follow the College Board-approved syllabus for the respective courses. Any high school AP teacher must have completed the College Board-endorsed AP Summer Institute (APSI) for the course and must have obtained AP certification through the Mississippi Department of Education's Office of Educator Licensure. Documentation showing completion of the College Board APSI is required.

Distance learning or the Mississippi Department of Education's Mississippi Virtual Public School may be used as an appropriate alternative for the delivery of high school AP courses except the District will make available at West Lowndes High School an on-site AP teacher for any student who requests and is eligible for one of the four core area AP courses either through the Rubric or by parental permission.

Identification of Students Eligible for the Advanced Placement Program:

All students in grades six through eleven will be screened in January of each year, using the District's Accelerated Course Screening Rubric (the Rubric). Students eligible to enroll in courses in the Advanced Placement Program are those students who attain a score of eleven or higher on the Rubric. Eligible students in grades 6-11 will be offered placement in one or more honors or accelerated, AP, or upper-level language classes for the coming school year.

If a student does not attain a score of at least eleven on the Screening Rubric, the student may choose to enroll in Advanced Placement Program courses if the student's parent or guardian gives written permission. All Advanced Placement Program courses will be listed on the course choice sheets that each student and the student's parent or guardian must sign to indicate the student's selection of courses for the coming school year.

Steps of the screening process:

1. Each middle and high school will have an Advanced Placement Program screening team. The team will consist of the school counselor, gifted teachers at each middle school, and AP teachers at each high school. The school counselor will coordinate and oversee the screening process at each school.
2. All students in grades six through eleven will be screened in January of each year for identification for honors or accelerated, AP, and upper-level language classes for the following school year.
3. For grades 6 and 7, math teachers and gifted teachers will complete the Screening Rubric for students in their respective classes for the math tracks offered in the 7th and 8th grades. For grade 8, math teachers, reading teachers, and gifted teachers will complete the Screening Rubric for students in their respective classes for math and English courses offered in the 9th grade. For grades 9-11, English,

math, science, and social studies teachers will complete the Screening Rubric for students in their respective classes. The appropriate counselor at each school will compile the final scores on the Rubric for each student.

4. Students who score 11 or above will be considered a candidate for placement in honors or accelerated, AP, or upper-level language classes.
5. Counselors will meet with groups of eligible students to explain the benefits of participation in the Advanced Placement Program (honors or accelerated, AP, and upper-level language classes).
6. Eligible students and their parents or guardians will be invited to attend an informational meeting. Counselors will mail written notice of the meeting to parents or guardians of eligible students, and they will maintain a list of the persons invited to the meetings. Counselors will coordinate these meeting dates and times with the Director of Curriculum and Instruction. The counselors will have sign-in sheets at the meetings. Notice of these meetings will be posted at each school so that students who are not eligible as a result of screening but who are interest in the Advanced Placement Program and their parents or guardians may attend the meeting.
7. Eligible students may be placed in one or more honors, accelerated, AP or upper-level language class. If an eligible student declines to participate in the courses, the student's parent or guardian should sign a declination or waiver.
8. Students who transfer into the District from another school district and have not previously been enrolled in Advanced Placement Program classes will be screened during the process beginning in January.
9. Students who transfer into the District from another school district and have been enrolled in Advanced Placement Program courses in the sending district may be placed in corresponding courses.
10. The screening rubrics and other information shall not be placed in the student's cumulative record folder. The files shall be maintained by the school counselor in a separate locked storage facility or file cabinet. Access to the information shall be restricted to those personnel working directly with the identification process, working directly in the AP Program, or who have a documented need to know.

Professional Development

Gifted and AP teachers will present professional development programs to all faculty and staff of the middle schools and high schools during the first semester of each school year

about identification of students for Advanced Placement Program courses and promotion of enrollment by students in them.

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction shall train school counselors in completion of the Screening Rubric and oversee the screening program.

Promotion of Advanced Placement Program

Counselors will publish a brochure about the Advanced Placement Program that will be sent home with student report cards at the end of the second nine weeks of the school year.

Counselors, gifted teachers, and AP teachers will actively recruit students to take courses in the Advanced Placement Program.

**ACCELERATED COURSE SCREENING RUBRIC
LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Name of Student: _____ Date: _____
 Subject: _____ School: _____ Grade: _____

	0	1	2	3	4
Overall GPA	< 80	80-84	85-90	91-95	96+
Subject GPA (1 st Semester) Select one: English, Math, Science, Social Studies _____ (Subject)	< 80	80-84	85-90	91-95	96+
Standardized Test Scores (MCT2 or SATP)	Below Basic	Basic		Proficient	Advanced
Teacher Recommendation	0 Would not recommend	1 Would recommend with significant reservations	2 Would recommend with few reservations	3 Would recommend	4 Would highly recommend

Sub-Total: _____

Additional Points Possible:

Evidence of Disadvantaged: _____ Add 1 Point: _____
 (Defined as Free/Reduced Lunch Eligibility, English Language Learner,
 or Culturally Disadvantaged (see attached checklist))

Gifted Eligibility Ruling: _____ Add 1 Point: _____

Total Points Earned on Screening Rubric: _____ Total: _____

Identifying Score: 11 or above (Range: 0 – 16)

_____ Student is recommended for placement in accelerated courses.

_____ Student is not recommended for placement in accelerated courses at this time.

Comments: _____

 Signature of Person Completing Rubric Date

Exception: Any student expressing a desire to be placed in an honors, accelerated, AP or upper level language class may be placed if the student's parent or guardian consents to placement .

Lowndes County School District
Referral for Honors, Accelerated, AP, or Upper-Level Language Classes
Grades 6-12
Placement Waiver

Name of Student: _____ Date: _____ MSIS ID#: _____

Date of Birth: _____ School: _____ Grade: _____

Name of Homeroom Teacher: _____

Parent Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

I understand that my child has been identified as a candidate for placement in an honors, accelerated, Advanced Placement, or upper-level language class. I do not wish for my child to be placed in an honors, accelerated, Advanced Placement, or upper-level language class.

Parent Signature

Date

Submit to Counselor



_____ Do not place in honors, accelerated, Advanced Placement, or upper-level language class at parent's request for this school year.

Counselor Signature

Date

Culturally Disadvantaged Checklist
(Adapted from MDE *Potentially Disadvantaged Gifted Checklist*)

Complete this checklist for any student who satisfies one or more of the categories. If a student satisfies five or more of the following criteria, then the student qualifies as disadvantaged.

- Limited English proficiency or English is not their primary language
- Non-standard English interferes with learning activities
- Frequent moves from one school to another or one school district to another
- Few academic enrichment opportunities available in the home or local neighborhood
- Home or after-school responsibilities may interfere with learning activities
- Cultural values may be in conflict with dominant culture
- Lack of access to cultural activities within the dominant culture
- Poor reading skills
- Experiences frequent absenteeism
- Experiences difficulty staying on task
- A student who has been diagnosed with ADD/ADHD qualifies for using the disadvantaged criteria as defined in the regulations.

Date of diagnosis: _____ Person making diagnosis: _____
Is documentation of the diagnosis available? Yes No