



**Federal Way Public Schools offers advanced programs and course work for all students.**

In order to encourage eligible students to participate in advanced classes, they are automatically enrolled in the appropriate advanced classes when they have demonstrated the capabilities and skills to be successful in such a class.

Standardized state tests in reading, writing, math and science are used to determine students' class placement. Students who pass these tests have shown that they have the knowledge and understanding of a subject necessary to take advanced courses.

State test scores are not the only way students can take advantage of advanced programs. Students who want to sign up for advanced courses may do so.

**Policy 2191:  
Challenging students to  
work to their full potential.**

Traditionally, school districts have provided advanced academic programs and left it up to the most academically motivated students to enroll in them. In Federal Way, we're taking a different approach, thanks to policy 2191, approved by the Federal Way Public Schools Board of Directors in the spring of 2010.

**Why was Federal Way's Academic Acceleration Policy established?**

We know that many more students can be successful in advanced programs with focused support and a partnership between home and school. We also know that advanced courses will better prepare students for educational opportunities beyond high school.

Research shows strong evidence of benefits to students who participate in advanced classes in terms of higher GPAs, credit hours earned and four-year graduation rates.

**A variety of programs are available.**

Every secondary school offers advanced programs designed to meet the academic needs of a diverse group of students. Students who qualify will be enrolled in the appropriate program offered at the middle or high

**Visit [www.fwps.org/info/advanced](http://www.fwps.org/info/advanced) for an overview of advanced programs available district-wide.** school he or she is scheduled to attend.

Some advanced programs are available only at specific schools. Two options for secondary students, the Technology Access Foundation Academy and Federal Way Public Academy, are available only by application. Students will not be automatically enrolled in these two programs.

To participate in the TAFA or FWPA programs, or in another advanced program that isn't available at your neighborhood school, students or parents should complete a choice application. Call 253-945-2013 or go to [www.fwps.org/info/choice/](http://www.fwps.org/info/choice/).



**“Is an advanced class right for my student?”**

**Before you decide, here's something to think about.**



**Academic Acceleration Policy 2191**

## Research shows that taking advanced classes can provide a considerable advantage.

Students who take advanced classes are better prepared for college course work, and tend to earn better grades. They are more likely to graduate from college than students who don't take advanced classes in high school. Colleges know this, and are more likely to admit students who have taken advanced classes, and to offer academic scholarships to them.

**Read more about the findings of recent studies at [www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/28/AR2007012801238.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/01/28/AR2007012801238.html)**

That's not just for the genius students, either. Too many students who are capable of succeeding in advanced classes choose not to take them. The reasons are often simple. They don't think they can do well, they don't want to work that hard, or they don't want to be seen as different from their friends. They might not think they can afford to go to college.



Federal Way Public Schools wants students to make the most of every opportunity available. That's why the district automatically enrolls students who have demonstrated the skills and knowledge to be successful in the appropriate advanced classes.

Of course, as the parent or guardian, you have the final say. If you are concerned that your student will not be able to handle the work in an advanced class, you can choose to opt him or her out now. A form is available on our website.

### Our suggestion? Give it a chance.

We have found that students, with the proper support, live up to the expectations we have of them. If the level of the work really is too much, you have up to four weeks to opt out of an advanced class and re-enroll in a different class. You may be surprised at how far your student can go.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### How are students selected and notified of their enrollment in AP classes?



State assessment results are evaluated to determine students' placement for following year courses. Staff then make the appropriate class placements.

Parents will receive a letter indicating that they have passed the state assessment and that the student will be enrolled in an advanced class.

### What subjects do students study in advanced classes?

Enrollment in grade 6–12 classes will depend on the advanced programs available at each school.

In general, students who meet standard in either reading or writing will be automatically enrolled in the advanced option available in both English and Social Studies. Students who have met the math standard will continue to progress through the most rigorous sequence of math courses depending on their skill level. Students who meet standard in science will be automatically enrolled in the advanced option available at their school.

### What if a student changes schools?

The various advanced programs in our district—Cambridge, International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement—prepare students to be successful in any other advanced programs as well as at the university level.

### What about English Language Learners and Special Education students?



The policy applies to ELL and Special Education students, as long as advanced program enrollment doesn't conflict with the student's individualized education plan.

### Can students who didn't meet the state standard or who don't have assessment results take advanced courses?

Yes, in both cases. Students may not test well or may not have taken the Washington state assessment at all. In either case, students should meet with their school counselor or advisor to determine appropriate placement.

### What kind of support is available for my student?

Support options will vary from school-to-school. Contact your school to determine what supports are available.



### What is the deadline to opt out of advanced classes?

Students can opt-out up to the end of the 4th week of each semester.

### What do I do if my student is failing an advanced course(s)?

Students and parents should stay in close contact with the teacher or other school staff to monitor the situation and discuss available support options.

### What if I do not want my child to be in Advanced Courses?

Parents can choose to opt out by completing the Advanced Program Refusal Form and returning it to the school.

### Where are the opt-out forms?

The Advanced Program Refusal Form is available at each secondary school (grades 6–12) and on the district website at [www.fwps.org/info/advanced](http://www.fwps.org/info/advanced).