

Curriculum/Education Committee Report February 2010

Chairs: Rebecca Smondrowski and Ted Willard

Issues/Programs Being Discussed in CAC and CAA:

Criteria for designating High School courses as Honors or Advanced has been proposed.

PROPOSED Criteria for Honors designation:

- Provides credit required for graduation in English, mathematics, science, and social studies, fine arts, foreign languages, or advanced technology education AND
- Pairs with a companion on-level course AND
- Has curriculum resources that provide guidance to ensure challenging content, processes, products, and assessments in honors and advanced courses.

When acceleration is effected by beginning a course sequence at an earlier grade level, introductory courses may not be designated as honors. Subsequent courses in the series may be offered as on-level or honors. Examples of courses that may not be designated as honors include Algebra I and Foreign Languages 1 and 2.

PROPOSED Criteria for Advanced designation:

- Require a college level of achievement in a content area.
- Have course materials that included appropriate adaptations for accelerated and enriched learning and in-depth studies that require abstract and higher-order thinking skills
- Are based upon previous achievement in a sequence of study in the content.
- Have a prerequisite course or sequence of study
- Earn high school credit in computer sciences, engineering, English, fine arts, foreign languages, information technology, mathematics, sciences
- Are not offered as honors.

Implementation of Advanced Middle School Courses

Committee members were introduced to curriculum samples for Advanced Middle School courses in English, social studies, and science for grades 6-8. The science curriculum in particular employs the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) concept within a Request for Proposal learning program. At this time, Advanced English 8 will earn a high school credit. Approval is pending for Advanced Science 8 and possibly Advanced US History 8.