

**GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Greenwich, Connecticut

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**Policy E-001 - PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND CURRICULUM**

**Procedure E-001.13 – Advanced Learning Programs K-12**

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The Superintendent recognizes that a critical dimension of a quality educational program is the extent to which it offers courses, activities, experiences, and instruction tailored to the particular needs and abilities of each student. The Superintendent also recognizes its responsibility to educate all students to their highest academic potential and is committed to adhering to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations regarding talented and gifted students. The term “gifted and talented,” when used with respect to students, children or youth, means students, children or youth, who give evidence of high performance capability in areas such as intellectual, creative, artistic, or leadership capacity, or in specific academic fields, and who require services or activities not ordinarily provided by the school in order to fully develop such capabilities. (20 USCS § 8801)

Through its Procedure Differentiated Instruction, the Superintendent directs staff to organize classrooms and tailor instruction at each grade level to particular student needs. In addition, the Superintendent recognizes that certain students have exceptional capabilities and are able to perform significantly above grade level and at high levels of achievement and accomplishment compared to others of their age and experience. The purpose of the district’s Advanced Learning Programs is to serve the needs of these students through an accelerated and enriched curriculum with their academic peers. Acceleration of instruction is defined as the presentation of curriculum sooner and at a more rapid pace than the regular curriculum. Enrichment is defined as giving students opportunities to study topics in greater depth or breadth.

All Advanced Learning Programs will consist of specific measurable objectives. The following Advanced Learning Programs will be offered throughout the district:

Grades 2-5

Advanced math (daily instruction)  
Advanced language arts classes (daily instruction)  
Advanced science/social studies for grades 3-5 (weekly instruction)  
Accelerated arts opportunities

Grades 6-8

Advanced math courses  
Advanced language arts/English courses  
Advanced science courses  
Accelerated arts opportunities

Interdisciplinary seminar

Grades 9-12

Honors courses in academics and the arts  
Advanced Placement courses  
Individual research and performance opportunities

It is the responsibility of the professional staff, guided by this procedure, to identify students who would benefit from the Advanced Learning Programs, to deliver appropriate services to them, and to develop assessment criteria to determine whether students are achieving to their potential and whether they have mastered applicable objectives. The District shall provide appropriate staff development for all staff to familiarize them with the Advanced Learning Programs curricula and objectives as well as the needs of talented and gifted students. The Superintendent is responsible for monitoring and assessing these programs.

Criteria and procedures for the screening and identification of students for the Advanced Learning Programs shall conform to, and meet or exceed existing legal mandates, and shall be revised expeditiously to retain such conformity over time. Such criteria and procedures shall be published in written form and made widely available to the general public. At the elementary school level, all students shall go through at least the initial screening for the Advanced Learning Programs to ensure equal opportunity for access; those who meet the requisite criteria shall continue through subsequent steps of the identification process. At the secondary school level, students will be identified through performance, test results and teacher recommendations.

Each spring a parent, guardian, teacher, or administrator may request that a student be assessed for placement in Advanced Learning Programs in the fall. Any student enrolling in the Greenwich Public Schools who has been identified for similar programs by a previous school district may submit records prescribed by the Superintendent for evaluation to determine whether the student meets district criteria. In the event such a student does not meet district standards, the student will be granted the right to undergo the district's own identification procedures.

Principals, together with the Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Education, are responsible for ensuring that Advanced Learning Programs are successfully implemented in each school.

Legal Reference: 20 USCS § 8801  
Connecticut General Statutes,  
10-76a (e) Definitions  
10-76d (e) Duties and powers of Board of Education to provide  
special education programs and services.

Procedure Revised: July 2006