

Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

March 27, 2019

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Jack R. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Subject: On-Level Course Offerings (02-25-19-02)

Question

During Public Comments, Board members requested information regarding on-level course offerings at all schools.

Response

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) maintains the vision that all students have access to rigorous course offerings that match their individual learning needs. To that end, there are multiple options available for students that include courses and instruction that are on grade level; beyond grade level; and at an advanced, honors, or college level.

At the elementary level, the instructional program includes on-level K–5 content in literacy, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, physical education, and health education, as well as opportunities for enrichment and acceleration. At the secondary level, MCPS offers both on-level and advanced/honors course offerings in all core academic subjects including English, mathematics, science, social studies, world languages, and health education, as indicated in the MCPS [High School Course Bulletin](#).

As noted in the MCPS High School Course Bulletin, a wide range of options is available for staff in high schools to consider when developing the local instructional program that best matches their students' needs, including an array of on-level, honors, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and various college-level courses. In most cases, high schools offer multiple levels of core academic courses and use multiple measures to strategically place students in the appropriate level. In rare cases, on-level course offerings at local high schools may have been reduced due to a variety of factors including student data and collaboration with the school leadership team and community. In these cases, changes to course offerings are being monitored, expectations are being communicated to schools, and staff will intervene as necessary with individual high schools if course offerings are not being implemented as designed.

Removing grade-level courses may decrease opportunities for students to receive instruction and curriculum at an appropriate level, as one size does not fit all and there needs to be options for meeting all students' needs.

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Maria V. Navarro, chief academic officer, at 240-740-3040.

JRS:MVN:BJC:jpm

Copy to:

Executive Staff

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