

Rigor

Prepare students for postsecondary education and career opportunities.

Criteria for Exemplary Key Practices

Rigorous Curriculum

Students are taught standards-based curriculum that prepares them for success in school demonstrated by classroom assessments, end-of-course exams, and state assessments. Standards and assessments drive curriculum.

Teachers clearly indicate standards and course goals to students. Academic and career and technical education standards prepare students for postsecondary work and careers.

All students complete real-world application assignments in all classrooms. Real-world application includes a balance of application of current knowledge, acquisition of new knowledge, and ability to solve problems and create solutions.

Each student completes at least one of the following opportunities in academic or career and technical education:

- participation in postsecondary articulation
- completion of dual credits
- completion of postsecondary credits (AP courses)
- acquisition of state/national industry certification(s)

All students will complete a rigorous program of study, which includes:

- upper-level career-related coursework that aligns to their career interests and goals
- a full course load during the junior and senior years
- upper-level math and science courses

All juniors in high school complete a placement exam and/or ACT/SAT to determine senior-year coursework.

Rigorous Instruction

Student-centered learning is implemented into the curriculum in all courses to address students' different learning styles, interests, and needs. Student-centered learning may include cooperative learning, project-based learning, inquiry-based learning, or independent research.

All students utilize literacy skills (reading and writing) weekly in all classes. All teachers are provided training to incorporate literacy strategies across the curriculum. The school district has a literacy plan that is reviewed and evaluated annually.

All students complete appropriate level math concepts in Career and Technical Education courses. All students complete real-world math problems in the math classroom. The school district provides math and CTE teachers training and/or time to work together to create integrated units of math instruction.

Students complete interdisciplinary, extended multi-day units and/or projects (problem-based). Interdisciplinary approaches could include team teaching, short- or long term-projects, thematic projects, thematic units, or academies.

Rigorous Assessment

Students are assessed throughout the semester to check for understanding to determine curriculum adjustments. Students are taught test-taking and study skills.

Authentic Assessment

Students have the opportunity to demonstrate understanding of acquired knowledge and skills as opposed to testing isolated skills or retained facts. Authentic assessment focuses on students' analytical skills; ability to integrate learning; creativity; ability to work collaboratively; and written and oral communication skills.

End-of-Course Exam

Students have an opportunity to complete end-of-course exam(s) to gain high school credit or course equivalency. Students are given practice end-of-course exams in the same format as the actual online tests.

ACT Exam

Juniors are encouraged to complete the ACT exam so results can be used to govern the emphasis of course selection for the senior year.

- Ninety percent of students complete the ACT exam before graduation.
- Students planning to take the ACT exam utilize an ACT preparation tool.

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