Barren County Continuum of Learning Opportunities for Students (Grades 4–12)

Legal References: KRS 158.6453; KRS 157.200; 704 KAR 3:285

Barren County Board of Education Policy: 08:1122

Barren County Schools provides a continuum of learning experiences for students in grades 4–12 that includes opportunities for both accelerated learning and advanced coursework, including the subject areas of language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. These opportunities are designed to ensure that all students are challenged appropriately and supported in meeting their individual academic goals, consistent with KRS 158.6453.

Accelerated Learning

Acceleration focuses on **when** students learn. It allows students to move through lessons or grade-level standards at a faster pace or receive targeted support to strengthen specific skills.

Barren County Schools' accelerated learning opportunities include the following:

- **Differentiated instruction** occurs within the classroom, which adapts to students' strengths and needs.
- **Enrichment opportunities** are provided through our Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).
- **Virtual and blended learning** options that allow for flexible pacing and advanced exploration.
- **Honors-level coursework** in middle and high school.

Students are considered for acceleration based on NWEA MAP Growth, KSA, and/or Classroom diagnostics, teacher determination, and special consideration.

Advanced Coursework

Advanced coursework focuses on **what** students learn. These programs provide more rigorous and in-depth study beyond the standard curriculum and help students prepare for college, career, and lifelong learning.

Barren County Schools provides the following advanced coursework opportunities to students:

- **Honors and advanced classes** in core subjects.
- **Advanced Placement (AP)** or **Dual Credit** courses that allow high-school students to earn college credit.
- **Early College opportunities** that support students who want to begin postsecondary coursework before graduation.
- **Enrichment and extension experiences** that promote deeper learning and problem-solving skills.

Advanced coursework begins in the intermediate or middle grades for students who demonstrate readiness and continues through high school.

Gifted and Talented Services

Barren County Schools provides specialized programs for students identified as gifted or talented, in accordance with state law. These programs nurture students' exceptional abilities through enrichment, independent study, mentorship, and advanced academic experiences. Students are identified through a variety of performance measures, which may include standardized or cognitive assessments, portfolios or auditions, referrals/interviews from teachers, counselors, principals, or parents, behavioral checklists, and observation records. For more information about GT services, go to our BC GT Website.

Extended and Enrichment Opportunities

Students in Barren County Schools can explore their interests and develop new skills through electives and extracurricular programs such as:

- **Visual and Performing Arts** – music, art, drama, and band.
- **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** – Agriculture, Army JROTC, Biomedical, Business, Childcare, Computer Programming, Culinary, Engineering, Information Technology
- **Physical Education:** PE, Health
- **STEM and Project Lead the Way (PLTW)** programs.
- **Academic and leadership organizations**, including Academic Team, Future Problem Solving, and after-school programs.

Our Commitment

Through this continuum of learning opportunities, Barren County Schools ensures that:

- **Acceleration** gives students the chance to move ahead when they are ready, and
- **Advanced coursework** challenges them with deeper, more rigorous content.

Together, these experiences create a learning culture that promotes the attributes from the Profile of a Trojan (skill and content mastery, initiative, teamwork, effective communication, accountability, and creative thinking) as we help lead students in Becoming Life-Ready.

Continuum of Learning Opportunities for Students
Barren County Schools

The following chart details the strategies and approaches for accelerated learning or advanced coursework options for grades 4-12

	Intermediate	Middle School	High School
	Grades 4-6	Grades 7-8	Grades 9-12
Acceleration Opportunities in Core Classroom	"Accelerated learning" means "an organized way of helping students meet individual academic goals by providing direct instruction to eliminate student performance deficiencies or enable students to move more quickly through course requirements and pursue higher level skill development," (KRS 158.6453(1)(a)).		
	Differentiated Instruction **MTSS Enrichment** **Virtual Options** Lang Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies	**Differentiated Instruction** **MTSS Enrichment** **Virtual Options** **Honors Courses:** Lang Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies	**Differentiated Instruction** **MTSS Enrichment** **Virtual Options** **Honors Courses:** Lang Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies
	Assessments & Other Criteria: NWEA MAP Growth, KSA, and/or Classroom Diagnositics; Teacher determination; Special consideration		
Advanced Course Work Opportunities	*"Advanced coursework" means "educational programs or opportunities designed to challenge students with more rigorous content beyond the standard curriculum, including but not limited to advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, and honors courses," (KRS 158.6453(1)(b)).*		
	Opportunites Single Subject Advancement Grade Skipping Lang Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies	**Opportunites** Grade Acceleration, Single Subject Advancement **Honors Courses:** Lang Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies High School Credit Courses - Algebra, Geometry	**Honors, Advanced Credit, Dual Credit, Magnet Program, WKU Early College** AP Lang, AP Lit , Dual Credit English Courses AP Pre Calculus, AP Calculus, AP Stats, Dual Credit Math Courses AP Biology, AP Enviormental Science, Dual Credit Science Courses AP World History, AP Government, AP US History
	Assessments & Other Criteria: MAP, KSA, and/or school-level guidelines		
Gifted Services	*Services are specially designed educational programs provided to students identified as having exceptional ability as defined by KRS 157.200 and KAR 704 KAR 3:285.*		
	Resource/Pull Out Setting Collaborative, Enrichment/Ind Study, Seminar	Course Specific Services Collaborative, Enrichment/Ind Study, Seminar	Course Specific Services, AP, Dual Credit, Early College Enrichment, Individual Study, Seminar
	Assessments & Other Criteria: Performance Data; Standardized/IQ Tests; Auditions or Portfolios; Referrals from teachers, principals, counselors, and parents; behavioral checklists, observation records, and parent or teacher interviews		
	- - - Additional Opportunites for Students to Extend and Expand Learning - - -		
Specials / Elective & Extracurricular Opportunities	**Physical Education:** PE, Health **Arts:** Visual Arts, Music **CTE:** STEAM/PLTW Intermediate Magnet	**Physical Education:** PE, Health **Arts:** Visual Arts, Music, Band, Choir, Orchestra **CTE:** PLTW Engineering, PLTW Medical Detectives, Army JROTC (HS credit)	**Physical Education:** PE, Health, Health Sciences **Arts:** Visual Art, Choir, Band, Orchestra, Drama **CTE:** Agriculture, Army JROTC, Biomedical, Business, Childcare, Computer Programming, Culinary, Engineering, Information Technology, Dual-Credit Early College Courses **AP Electives**: AP Seminar, AP Research, AP Comp Sci A, AP Comp Sci Principles
	Academic Team - Future Problem Solving **Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP)** **BETA Club**		
	21st CCLC & BBB Afterschool Programming		

Acceleration = "When" they learn it (faster progression through grade-level standards).

"Accelerated learning" means "an organized way of helping students meet individual academic goals by providing direct instruction to eliminate student performance deficiencies or enable students to move more quickly through course requirements and pursue higher level skill development," (KRS 158.6453(1)(a)).

Advanced = "What" they learn (more rigorous, challenging material).

"Advanced coursework" means "educational programs or opportunities designed to challenge students with more rigorous content beyond the standard curriculum, including but not limited to advanced placement, International Baccalaureate, and honors courses," (KRS 158.6453(1)(b)).