

Fact Sheet and User Guide for Secondary Course Code Directory for Gifted Students

Current Status

Middle and senior high schools throughout Florida provide gifted services through State-approved gifted courses including:

MJ Advanced Academics 6-8 (7855040);
MJ Advanced Academics and Career Planning 6-8 (7855042);
Skills for Students who are Gifted 9-12 (7963090);
Research Methodology for Students who are Gifted 9-12 (7965010);
Externship for Students who are Gifted 9-12 (7965030); and
Studies for Students who are Gifted 9-12 (7965040).

Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) Recommendations

The OPPAGA report on Gifted Education (2008), indicated that a growing number of districts provide gifted services at the secondary level by double coding advanced courses (advanced, Honors, Advanced Placement (AP), etc) in Language Arts/English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies as gifted courses providing that all of the students in the course are eligible for gifted services and are taught by a teacher who is endorsed in gifted education.

As stated in the OPPAGA report, “These types of courses are not reflected in the state course code directory but account for most of the gifted courses school districts offer to gifted students at the high school level”.

In order to allow the Department of Education and the Legislature to better measure the direct services that school districts provide gifted students, it is the recommendation of the *Working on Gifted Issues* Workgroup on Secondary Course Code that districts revise their Secondary Course Code Directory to include a specialized number or suffix to be added to middle school advanced, Honors, and Advanced Placement courses so that these courses in the areas of Language Arts/English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies can be offered as gifted courses. (For example, AP Calculus #1202310 for gifted with a suffix of G would appear as AP Calculus Gifted #1202310G in the Course Code Directory.)

Procedures

Rule 6A-6.0311, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), states that a class may not be considered a gifted class unless every student in the class has met gifted eligibility and the teacher has the gifted endorsement. Prior to initiating specialized coding for gifted courses, districts must ensure that these courses would only be made available to students identified as gifted and instructed by teachers endorsed to teach gifted or on an approved waiver to complete the endorsement.

The content and pacing for these gifted/advanced, gifted/Honors, and/or gifted/AP courses should be differentiated to the degree that activities are clearly intended for students evidencing a need beyond the general curriculum as indicated by their individual educational plan (EP). The scope of the curriculum of the gifted course would be the same (i.e., Honors Algebra I, AP Biology), but the strategies used by the teacher of the gifted would include activities, research, and projects that add greater depth and complexity to the course. The gifted course must emphasize a quantitatively differentiated curriculum based on the content, processes, and applications that provide acceleration and enrichment based on students’ strength and needs as indicated by their giftedness.