



DeKalb County School District

# Student Academic Success with Equity and Access Initiative

**Middle School Carnegie Credit Courses  
& High School AP Course Equity**

Presented to: DeKalb County Board of Education | April 2026 | Dr. Kia Billingsley & Mrs. Michelle Dillard

# Executive Summary

*Middle School Academic Equity in DeKalb County*



## MIDDLE SCHOOL CARNEGIE CREDITS

**Goal:** Carnegie credit courses at ALL middle schools by SY 2026–27

**Current Reality:** 6 of 21 middle schools offer zero Carnegie credit courses Columbia MS, DeKalb Arts Academy, Lithonia MS, Miller Grove MS, Stone Mountain MS, Redan MS

**Key Actions:**

- Standardized course catalog
- Teacher credentialing expansion
- Student pathway mapping
- Virtual & blended learning

# Current State: Middle School Carnegie Credits



*Significant access gaps exist across 21 middle schools*

6

Schools offering  
ZERO Carnegie courses

8

Schools offering  
1–3 Carnegie courses

7

Schools offering  
4+ Carnegie courses

## Most Commonly Offered Courses

- Spanish I & II
- Enhanced Grade 8 Math / Algebra
- Career & Technical Education courses

### The Equity Issue

Students' access to Carnegie credit-bearing courses is determined by their assigned school — not their academic readiness or aspirations. This creates inequitable pathways that follow students throughout their academic career.

# Carnegie Credit Courses by Middle School

SY 2025-26 data | *red = no courses offered (priority schools)*



| MIDDLE SCHOOL      | CARNEGIE CREDIT COURSES OFFERED                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bethune MS (1)     | Spanish I                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Cedar Grove MS (2) | Spanish I • Visual Arts Comp. I                                                                                                                                                            |
| Chamblee MS (7)    | Enhanced Algebra CC • HS Physical Science • Visual Arts Comp. I • German I • German II • Spanish I • Spanish II                                                                            |
| Champion MS (6)    | Enhanced Algebra CC • Visual Arts Comp. I • Foundations of Eng. & Tech. • Intro to Business Tech. • Spanish I • Spanish II                                                                 |
| Chapel Hill MS (3) | Visual Arts Comp. I • Spanish I • Spanish II                                                                                                                                               |
| Druid Hills MS (5) | Enhanced Algebra CC • Visual Arts Comp. I • French I French II • Spanish I                                                                                                                 |
| Freedom MS (1)     | Intro to Business Tech.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Henderson MS (5)   | Enhanced Algebra CC • French I • French II Spanish I • Spanish II                                                                                                                          |
| McNair MS (3)      | Intro to Business Tech. • Enhanced Algebra CC • Spanish I                                                                                                                                  |
| Peachtree MS (10)  | Enhanced Algebra CC • HS Physical Science • Visual Arts Comp. I • Foundations of Eng. & Tech. • French I French II • Spanish I • Spanish II • SP Native Speakers I • SP Native Speakers II |

| MIDDLE SCHOOL                  | CARNEGIE CREDIT COURSES OFFERED                                                                   |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Salem MS (2)                   | French I • Spanish I                                                                              |
| Sequoyah MS (2)                | Enhanced Algebra CC • HS Physical Science                                                         |
| Stephenson MS (5)              | Intro to Business Tech. • Enhanced Algebra CC • HS Physical Science • Spanish I • Spanish II      |
| Tucker MS (4)                  | Intro to Business Tech. • Foundations of Eng. & Tech. • Enhanced Algebra CC • HS Physical Science |
| Wadsworth Magnet (3)           | Enhanced Algebra CC • Spanish I • Spanish II                                                      |
| <b>Columbia MS (0)</b>         | <i>No Carnegie credit courses offered</i>                                                         |
| <b>DeKalb Arts Academy (0)</b> | <i>No Carnegie credit courses offered</i>                                                         |
| <b>Lithonia MS (0)</b>         | <i>No Carnegie credit courses offered</i>                                                         |
| <b>Miller Grove MS (0)</b>     | <i>No Carnegie credit courses offered</i>                                                         |
| <b>Redan MS (0)</b>            | <i>No Carnegie credit courses offered</i>                                                         |
| <b>Stone Mountain MS (0)</b>   | <i>No Carnegie credit courses offered</i>                                                         |

# Carnegie Implementation Plan



*Six strategic initiatives to ensure universal access beginning SY 2026–27*

1

## Standardized Course Catalog

Establish a universal catalog of Carnegie credit courses — math, world languages, and select electives — offered at every traditional middle school in DeKalb County. The catalog sets a non-negotiable baseline while allowing schools flexibility to add courses based on staffing and community needs. Work to begin in Fall 2026 to determine standardized courses.

2

## Strategic Staffing & Credentialing

Expand the Accelerate 8 teacher certification program to include 6th and 7th grade math and science teachers. Currently 18 math and science teachers are participating and expected to complete credentialing this May 2026.  
Conduct a full teacher credential audit across all 21 middle schools.  
Recruit certified teachers and develop shared-staffing models and PLCs for vertical alignment.

3

## Student Pathway Mapping

Implement a consistent, district-wide multi-measure identification process for grades 6–12.  
Develop visual academic pathway maps in multiple languages connecting middle school Carnegie credits to high school graduation requirements and postsecondary opportunities.  
[HB 1030](#) calls for the automatic enrollment of students performing at the exceeding level on GMAS into Enhanced/Accelerated math courses

# Carnegie Implementation Plan



*Six strategic initiatives to ensure universal access beginning SY 2026–27*

4

## Virtual & Blended Learning/ Innovative Scheduling

Certified FLEX Academy teacher works as a co-teacher with local schoolteacher to offer virtual and blended course models so every middle school — regardless of size or staffing — can offer all Carnegie catalog courses.  
Allow time for co-planning so that student receive high quality instruction.  
Use ELT to pair Carnegie level math course to extend time on grade level math and high school level math.

5

## Professional Development

Form vertical curriculum teams pairing middle and high school teachers in each Carnegie subject.  
Create PLC for training and vertical alignment.  
Develop common end-of-unit assessments and pacing guides that guarantee consistent rigor across all schools.

6

## Family Engagement & Resources

Host Carnegie information nights at all 21 middle schools with multilingual materials (5+ languages). Launch a dedicated district webpage.

# Carnegie Implementation Timeline

*Spring 2026 through Fall 2028 rollout schedule*

## Spring 2026

- Launch professional development planning
- FY27 budget planning & allocation
- Vertical curriculum team formation

## Summer 2026

- Teacher credential audit complete
- Expand Accelerate 8 program
- Collaborate with HR to develop a recruitment plan for certified instructors

## Fall 2026

- Build standardize course catalog
- Student pathway mapping implemented
- FLEX Academy virtual offerings begin
- Common assessments established for MS Carnegie courses
- Begin family engagement sessions
- Conduct course audits for each middle school
- Conduct PL on scheduling

## SY 2027–28

- Full Carnegie credit access at all 21 schools
- Success metrics tracking begins
- Annual equity review cycle
- Continuous improvement process

# Executive Summary

*HS AP Course Academic Equity in DeKalb County*



## HIGH SCHOOL AP COURSE EQUITY

**Goal:** Expand the minimum AP courses offerings at every high school to 10 or more

**Current Reality:** Schools range from 5 to 30+ AP offerings — a stark equity gap

### Key Actions:

- Establish an AP access floor
- Phased 3-year expansion plan
- Remove gatekeeping barriers
- Leverage AVID program

# Current State: AP Course Disparities



*Inequities in AP access across DeKalb County High Schools*

## Access vs Opportunity: Understanding the Impact of Opportunity Gaps

Stone Mountain High School: 5 courses | MLK Jr. High School: 6 courses | Columbia High School: 7 courses

### College Readiness Gap

Students at under-resourced schools graduate with fewer AP course options, limiting college applications and reducing scholarship opportunities.

### Demographic Correlation

AP course disparities often correlate with school demographics and historical resource allocation patterns — perpetuating systemic inequity.

### First-Gen Students Disadvantaged

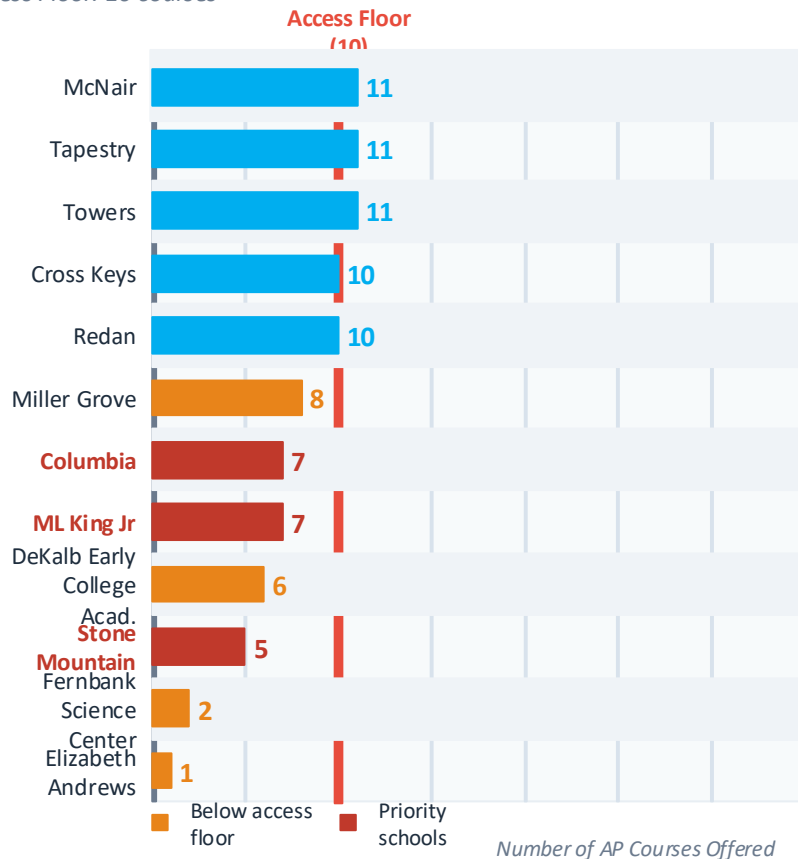
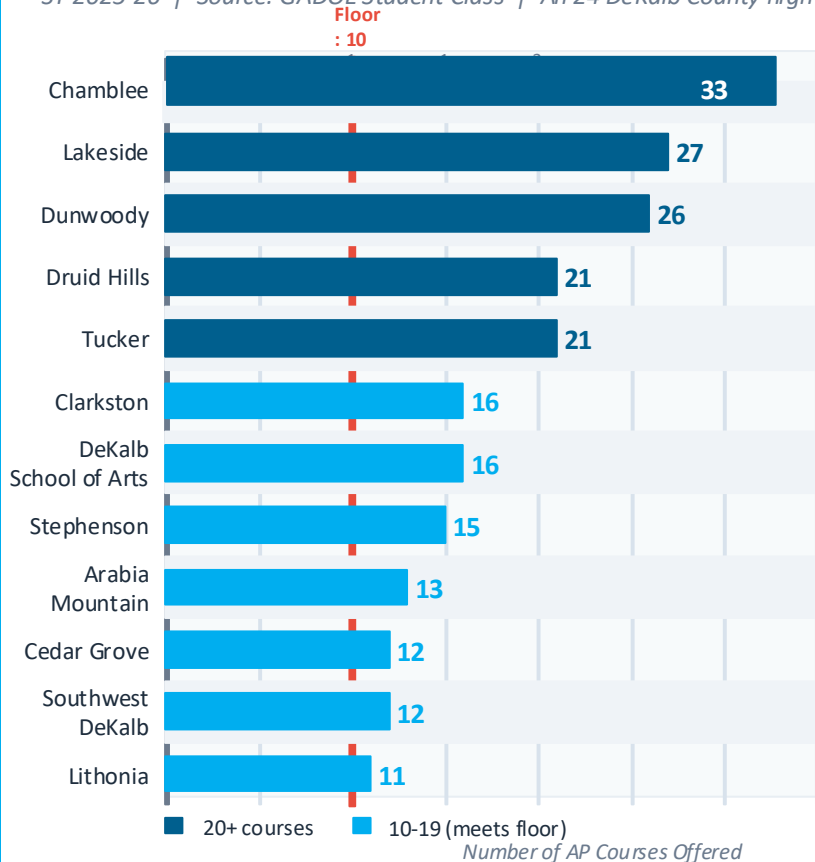
Relying on self-selection for AP enrollment systematically disadvantages first-generation college-bound students and underrepresented groups.

### Teacher Pipeline Gaps

AP-certified teacher shortages in priority schools limit course expansion. Prioritizing APSI training is uneven across the district.

# AP Courses Offered per High School

SY 2025-26 | Source: GADOE Student Class | All 24 DeKalb County high schools | Access Floor: 10 courses



# AP Equity: Six High-Leverage Recommendations



*Recommendations 1–3 of 6: Access Floor, Expansion & Teacher Capacity*

1

## Establish a District AP Access Floor

Adopt a formal district policy or regulation establishing 10 or more AP course offerings as the minimum standard at every comprehensive high school. Designate Stone Mountain (5), MLK Jr. (6), and Columbia (7) as Priority Investment Schools with dedicated AP Expansion Liaisons, quarterly monitoring, and dedicated support until the access floor is met.

2

## Implement a Phased AP Expansion Strategy

Execute a structured three-year plan: Year 1 (SY 2026-27) — add 2–5 AP courses at each Priority Investment School using APSI-trained teachers, shared staffing, or virtual sections. Year 2 (SY 2027-28) — all three priority schools reach the 10-course access floor. Year 3 (SY 2028-29) — all comprehensive high schools meet the 15-course aspirational standard.

3

## Build AP Teacher Capacity

Redirect all available APSI Summer 2026 training slots to priority schools and teachers launching new courses. Review the 3-year APSI re-attendance policy to allow flexible access for high-need schools. Launch an AP Mentoring Partnership program and establish formal AP course PLC for AP teacher development.

# AP Equity: Six High-Leverage Recommendations



*Recommendations 4–6 of 6: Enrollment, Accountability & AVID*

4

## Remove Gatekeeping Barriers

Shift from passive self-selection to a proactive, data-driven enrollment model. Students meeting defined criteria (85%+ in prerequisite, teacher recommendation, or milestone score) are automatically placed in AP and must actively opt out. Conduct an annual AP enrollment equity audit disaggregated by race, socioeconomic status, EL status, and disability. Provide automatic AP exam fee waivers for all income-eligible students.

5

## Align Accountability & Monitoring

Require every comprehensive high school to include a specific, measurable AP expansion or equity goal in their Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP) for SY 2026-27. Launch the District AP Dashboard by Spring 2027 — internally accessible, tracking AP course count per school, enrollment by subgroup, exam participation rates, and score distributions (% scoring 3+) with year-over-year trends.

6

## Leverage the AVID Program

Map every Priority Investment High School to its feeder middle schools and confirm AVID presence at each. Expand AVID elective offerings at feeder schools lacking sufficient capacity. Implement a formal AVID-to-AP transition protocol — students completing 8th grade AVID are proactively enrolled in AP or Pre-AP in 9th grade. Track AVID alumni AP enrollment annually as a key program effectiveness metric.

# AP Phased Expansion Strategy



*Three-year roadmap to close the AP access gap district-wide*

## Year 1 | SY 2026–27

### Add 2–5 AP courses at priority schools

- Shared staffing or virtual sections
- Prioritize STEM: AP Bio, AP Pre-Calc, AP CS
- Humanities anchors: AP Eng Language, AP US History
- Redirect APSI slots to priority schools
- Launch teacher recruitment campaigns

## Years 2–3 | SY 2027–28 & 2028–29

### Achieve minimum standard at ALL schools

- Meet 10 AP course floor district-wide
- Strengthen 9th–10th grade Pre-AP pipeline
- Grow pool of AP-ready students over time
- Set measurable annual participation targets
- Disaggregate data by school & subgroup

# Success Metrics & Accountability



*How we will measure progress for MS Carnegie Expansion initiatives*

## Carnegie Credit Metrics

- **Carnegie course availability:** 100% of middle schools offer the Enhanced Math 8/Algebra CC course by Fall 2026; by SY 2027–28 100% of middle schools offer every core catalog course
- **Enrollment equity:** Year-over-year increase in enrollment by subgroup; demographic representation in Carnegie courses within 10% of school population by SY 2027–28
- **Student success rates:** 75% or more of enrolled students earn a C or better per course, disaggregated by subgroup, reported each semester
- **Teacher credentialing:** 18 teachers complete Accelerate 8 credentialing by May 2026; expand to 30+ teachers by SY 2027–28
- **Family engagement:** Carnegie information nights held at all 21 schools by December 2026; 70%+ family awareness rate on annual survey

# Success Metrics & Accountability



*How we will measure progress for both initiatives*

## AP Equity Metrics

- **AP access floor:** All priority schools (Stone Mountain, MLK, Columbia) reach 10 AP courses by end of SY 2027–28; all comprehensive high schools reach 15 by SY 2028–29
- **AP enrollment equity:** Year-over-year increase in % of students in at least one AP course; demographic enrollment within 10% of school population by subgroup by SY 2027–28
- **AP exam performance:** Increase exam participation rate by 10% annually; 40% or more of exam takers score a 3 or higher district-wide by SY 2028–29
- **Demographic representation:** Annual equity audit disaggregated by race, SES, EL status, and disability; results published on District AP Dashboard by Spring 2027
- **AVID pipeline:** 100% of priority high schools confirmed AVID presence in all feeder schools by SY 2027–28; AVID alumni AP enrollment tracked annually
- \*[AP Scores SY2024-SY2025.xlsx](#) with demographic data
- \*[2026\\_APSI\\_Enrollment\\_Summary.xlsx](#)

# Our Commitment to Implementation



*How DeKalb County School District will turn these plans into results*



## Funding Our Plan:

We will develop a multi-year FY27–FY29 budget plan that prioritizes staffing, APSI training, and AVID expansion. All expenditures will be cost-neutral where possible through credentialing pipelines and shared-staffing models.



## Engaging Our Community:

We will hold Carnegie information nights at all 21 middle schools by December 2026 and share course catalog drafts with principals and counselors in June 2026. Parent, student, and teacher feedback will drive continuous revisions through a structured feedback loop in Fall 2026.



## Building Our Teacher Pipeline:

We will partner with HR prior to Fall 2026 to design a recruitment campaign for AP- and Carnegie-certified instructors. Internally, we will build the pipeline through Accelerate 8 (18 teachers credentialing by May 2026, growing to 30+ by SY 2027–28) and annual APSI registrations managed proactively by AP Coordinators.



## Data-Driven Accountability:

We will collaborate with Accountability & Research to disaggregate Carnegie and AP enrollment data by school and subgroup by Fall 2026. The District AP Dashboard will launch publicly by Spring 2027, tracking course counts, enrollment equity, exam participation, and score distributions with year-over-year trends.



## Coordinated District Leadership:

Advanced Academics will convene a cross-functional implementation team including HS Area, HR, Finance, FLEX Academy, and Teaching & Learning. This team will meet quarterly to review progress, resolve barriers, and report to the Superintendent on benchmark attainment.