Secondary Course Offerings

New Business – November 12, 2026
Board Action – December 3, 2026

Topics for Today's Work Session

- Part I: Provide background on secondary course offerings
- Part II: Explain how students access courses
- Part III: Review the procedures for the annual Course Review process
- Part IV: Describe 2027-2028 current course requests for Action

Part I: Background: Secondary Course Offerings

All middle and high schools catalog of course offerings include a mix of Standard and Optional courses:

Standard Course:

A course that has been designated as available to all students as a course offering.

Optional Course:

A course that has been designated as available for all schools to offer based on student interests and staff and facilities availability.

The breadth of course offerings in FCPS has been viewed as a strength that allows for many options for students and schools, though the breadth of course offerings also results in different options across schools.

Part I: Background on Running Courses

- Student interest and staffing are evaluated annually at each school to determine if courses will run in a given school year.
- **Standard course offerings** are advertised at each school, and decisions about running the course for the following school year are determined through the staffing process at each school.
- **Optional course offerings** are available to all secondary schools to advertise if they choose based on staffing and facility considerations
- At the school level, there is a natural elimination process that occurs when student interest decreases and it is no longer able to be staffed.

Part I: Summary of Standard Course Offerings at Base Schools

	Middle School	High School
Approximate #	60	100
English	Standard and Honors	Standard, Honors; AP, IB, and/or DE
HPE	HPE 7, 8, and Adapted	HPE 9, 10, and Adapted
Math	Standard-level and Honors	Standard-level, Honors; AP, IB, and/or DE
Science	Standard-level and Honors	Standard-level, Honors; AP, IB, and/or DE
Social Studies	Standard-level and Honors	Standard-level, Honors; AP, IB, and/or DE
World Languages	Spanish and French	Spanish and French
Additional Content Areas	Art, Band, Chorus, CTE, Orchestra, Theatre	Art, Band, Chorus, CTE, Orchestra, Theatre

Part I: Optional Course Offerings

There are over 650 high school optional course offerings (including various options for academies and TJHSST) and over 130 middle school optional course offerings

- Available across content areas
- Offer students unique opportunities to pursue current and future interests.
- Schools have discretion on which optional courses to offer based on student interest, staffing, unique facility or classroom needs, and available teachers with required licensure

Part II: How Students Access Courses in High School

Local Base School Options:

Standard and Optional Course Offerings:	• Standard course offerings are advertised to students at each school. Optional course offerings are determined based on student interest, facilities, and staffing. • Courses serve students enrolled in that school.
HS Specialized Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs at Base Schools:	• Select specialized CTE programs exist at base schools due to the availability of appropriate facilities in that school as well as additional requirements for unique programs. • Programs include Automotive, Cosmetology, Culinary, Early Childhood, and JROTC.
School within a School Specialty Programs:	• Edison Global STEM Challenges • Lewis Leadership

Part II: How Students Access Courses in High School

Part-Time Enrollment Options:

High School Academies:

- Students split time between their base high school and the Academy.
- Academies are equipped with industry-standard tools, labs, and technologies; extended hands-on training blocks (2–3 hrs); serve students from multiple high schools; academic instruction stays at the home school.
- Transportation is provided.
- There are six high school academies:
    - Chantilly, Edison, Fairfax, Falls Church, Marshall, West Potomac/Bryant

Online Campus :

- Students may enroll in up to 2 online courses as part of their standard course schedule free of charge.
- Students may take additional online courses with tuition.
- Students complete 80% of the course content asynchronously and 20% synchronously.
- The synchronous instruction is via virtual instruction, one evening per week.

Part III: Summary of Course Review Process

- Per Regulation 3202, the Secondary Course Review process occurs annually; schools and central offices can propose new courses or suggest changes to current course offerings.

- A committee made up of community members and school-based and central personnel review proposals and provide recommendations to the Superintendent and School Board. Students were added to the committee for the first time this year.

Part IV: New Course Proposals for SY2027-2028

New Advanced Academics Offering

- Core Components for the IB CP HN

New CTE Offerings

- Advanced Game Design & Development
- Exploring Business
- Public Safety 1 and 2

New Fine Arts Offerings

- Jewelry 3 and 4 HN
- Sculpture 3 and 4 HN

New Get2Green Offering

- Eco-Innovators

New Health & PE Offerings

- Advanced Swim & Lifeguard Certification
- Swim Instructor & Safety

New World Languages Offerings

- Korean for Heritage Speakers 2, 3, and 4 HN
- Tamil 1, 2, 3, and 4 HN

Part IV: Designation Changes for 2027-2028

New Dual Enrollment Designation

- Game Design & Development DE
- IB Business Management DE
- Statistics DE
- Welding 1 DE and Welding 2 DE

Part IV: Recommendation for Action on December 3

It is recommended that the School Board approve changes to the list of middle and high school course offerings for the 2027-2028 school year, as recommended by the Course Review Committee, and as detailed in the agenda item.

Questions and Discussion