

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO ADVANCED COURSES

THE 2020 AGENDA

HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW

In 2018-19, students who were low-income and students who were Latinx, Black, and American Indian were less likely than their non low-income and White peers to be enrolled in a range of gatekeeper and advanced courses in middle and high school.

Students who are low-income and Latinx, Black, and American Indian students are less likely to attend schools that offer these critical courses. And even when they do attend schools that offer the classes, students from historically under-served groups are less likely to be enrolled in them.

NEW YORK IS MAKING PROGRESS

Last year, The New York Equity Coalition launched the “5x25 campaign” to call on state leaders to solve this challenge. Policymakers have taken important steps to address this issue, including:

- New York State’s new accountability system holds schools accountable for improving “college, career, and civic readiness” for all groups of students.
- Governor Cuomo endorsed the goal that every student will be able to earn college credit or workforce experience by the time the Class of 2025 graduates from high school and has expanded access to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses.
- The Board of Regents and New York State Education Department released landmark guidance to school districts establishing Guiding Principles for Course Access Equity and spotlighting promising practices as well as practices that have a negative impact.

THERE IS MUCH MORE TO BE DONE

We call on state leaders to:

- 1 Improve access to advanced courses.**

The state should invest in more Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Dual Enrollment courses in high-need school districts — including planning time for teachers and equity-driven course enrollment policies — and in expanding access to school counselors who are culturally responsive.
- 2 Support parents and students.**

The state should require school districts to provide every family with clear and concise information, in multiple languages, beginning in the late elementary grades about the courses their child can take in middle and high school to prepare for college, careers, and active citizenship — including the benefits of enrolling in advanced courses and the support available.
- 3 Eliminate barriers to enrollment.**

The state should enable automatic enrollment in the next available advanced course for students who demonstrate readiness using one of multiple measures. Families would always have the right to decline this automatic enrollment. States like North Carolina, Washington, and Colorado have enacted similar legislation.
- 4 Eliminate enrollment disparities.**

The state should ensure that any school or school district that has disparities in advanced course enrollment is implementing an action plan to improve equity with parent, educator, and student input.

Learn more at www.EquityInEdNY.org/PassedOver

THE NEW YORK EQUITY COALITION

