



HB 190: Expanding Access to Advanced Coursework in Kentucky

What the bill does:

- Creates automatic enrollment policies for qualified students (starting in 4th grade) to access challenging, advanced coursework
- By 2026, districts must create plans to increase access to advanced courses through new ways for selecting students.
- Enhances communication to students and families about advanced coursework benefits, while allowing parents and principals to opt students out if needed

Why it matters:

This bill breaks down barriers by automatically enrolling qualified students in challenging courses starting in 4th grade, regardless of zip code or background. The approach supports Big Bold Future goals for educational parity while creating clear pathways for all students to develop critical thinking skills needed for future success.

- **Future Readiness:** Advanced coursework gives students the skills needed for good jobs, stable careers, and community contribution
- **Economic Reality:** By 2040, 75% of U.S. workers will need college degrees or valuable credentials for economic prosperity
- **Proven Results:** Similar programs in other states have dramatically increased qualified student participation
- **Equal Opportunity:** Removes barriers so a student's zip code or connections don't determine access to advanced learning
- **Economic Benefits:** Builds Kentucky's talent pipeline while creating cost-saving opportunities through potential college credits
- **Balanced Approach:** Respects local flexibility while ensuring qualified students get access regardless of background



Making it work in the real world:

- **Statewide Partnership:** Schools, districts, KDE, lawmakers, community organizations, and businesses must collaborate on implementation
- **Shared Measurement:** Schools should count who enrolls in and finishes courses to see what works best and track progress.
- **Community Support:** Families, mentors, and local businesses can provide encouragement and resources for students in advanced courses
- **Creative Solutions:** Develop local partnerships and accessible transportation options to remove nonacademic barriers caused by geography
- **Student Success Systems:** Schools must develop support structures such as tutoring and mentoring to promote student success in advanced coursework
- **Ongoing Commitment:** Continued policy support and funding will ensure this initiative reaches every qualified Kentucky student