



EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS





Ensuring that **EVERY CHILD** has equitable access to the highest quality educational opportunities, services, and supports.



EQUITABLE ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS ALL GRADE LEVELS



The Board of Regents and SED are committed to ensuring that all students succeed and thrive in school no matter who they are, where they are from, where they live, or where they go to school. This emphasis on equity includes a focus on increasing students' access to rigorous learning opportunities so that all students are prepared for success after high school. Below are conversation starters to use in district when discussing equitable access to opportunities for all students.

	GUIDING QUESTION	TALKING POINTS
	What positive practices are being used in elementary and middle school grade levels to build a foundation of equity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure high expectations for all students • Scaffold curriculum in early grades so students are prepared for advanced coursework in high school • Provide educators with the necessary professional development • Screen all students not inviting certain students to test into/apply for advanced programming
	How are students able to access opportunities in high school?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create multiple pathways so students can enroll in advanced coursework at various points through their school experience • Provide families and students of all backgrounds access to school counselors and resources in their home language to better assist with navigating course enrollment to prepare for future college and career plans
	What are the enrollment practices/policies for advanced coursework?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the negative impact of single measure enrollment measures such as rigid GPA cutoffs, teacher or administrator recommendations, unrelated entrance tasks/exams, or nonessential prerequisites • Reconsider a policy that includes an appeals process, as the appeal process may present barriers that families may not feel comfortable overcoming
	Are a robust set of supports and encouragements in place for all students to engage in advanced coursework?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide course guides, enrollment information and instructions, and letters to parents inviting students to participate in advanced courses in the family's home language • Inform eligible students of fee waivers available for AP and IB assessments • Develop a support structure for students enrolled in advanced coursework to include access to tutoring, technology, and school guidance counselors

The complete NYSED Memo can be found at: <http://www.nysed.gov/memo/essa/equitable-course-access-guidance>