STATE OF NEW YORK

5650

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 10, 2023

Introduced by Sens. LIU, BAILEY, BROUK, GOUNARDES, KENNEDY, RAMOS, SALAZAR -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to expanding access to advanced courses to improve educational equity

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 817 to read as follows:

§ 817. Expanding access to advanced courses to improve educational equity. 1. Definitions. As used in this section the following terms shall have the following meanings:

a. "Advanced course" means as follows: (i) in middle school, any course that leads to a high school level regents examination or any honors, gifted, or accelerated course; and (ii) in high school, any honors, gifted, accelerated, advanced placement, international baccalaureate, dual or concurrent enrollment course or program, work-based learning opportunities, apprenticeships, and courses or examinations for which a student may earn college credit or an industry-recognized certification.

b. "Parent" means a parent, legal guardian, or person in parental relation to a student.

2. Providing transparency and support for parents and students. a. Starting with the two thousand twenty-four--two thousand twenty-five school year, each school district and charter school shall annually provide notification to parents and students of the benefits and the opportunities within the district or charter school of participating in advanced courses.

b. For students in grades five through six, such notification shall include:

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(i) a clear and understandable description of the middle and high school courses students should take in order to be prepared for entry and success in college, the workforce, and active citizenship, including but not limited to advanced courses;

(ii) language advising students and parents of the benefits of participating in advanced courses; and

(iii) a description of the advanced courses offered by the school district or charter school in middle and high school and how to prepare for and enroll in them.

c. For students preparing to enter grades seven through twelve, such notification shall occur by January first of each school year or two weeks before registration for classes for the upcoming school year, whichever is earlier, and shall include:

(i) a clear and understandable description of the courses students should take in the applicable grade span in order to be prepared for entry and success in college, the workforce, and active citizenship, including but not limited to advanced courses;

(ii) language advising students and parents of the benefits of participating in advanced courses;

(iii) a description of the advanced courses to be offered by the school district or charter school in the following school year; and

(iv) a description of the academic and non-academic support the school district or charter school provides to help students succeed in advanced courses, as well as any financial assistance available to reduce or eliminate any costs associated with participation in advanced courses, including but not limited to related fees, supplies, and assessments.

d. Notification under this subdivision shall be provided electronically or by mail and be posted on the website of the school district or charter school.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.