



WEST CHICAGO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Reach Higher. Achieve Together.
Alcanza Más. Logrando Juntos.

TO Board of Education
FROM Janet Ayala
DATE June 18, 2026
SUBJECT House Bill 3039 (Public Act 104-0267) – High School Credit for Middle School Students

This memo is:

- ☒ Information only.
- ☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.
- ☐ Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: June 18, 2026

Previous memos on this topic can be found:

- ☐ in previous Board packet(s) dated:
- ☐ or attached to this memo

Basic Information/Overview	Effective January 1, 2026, House Bill 3039 (Public Act 104-0267) amended the Illinois School Code to allow school districts to establish policies permitting qualifying students in grades 7 and 8 to enroll in high school courses and earn high school credit while taking those courses at their middle school. Under the law, a district may award high school credit when the student successfully completes the qualifying high school course and meets the requirements established under the law, including demonstrating high-school-level proficiency when applicable. The law also provides that the course must meet the appropriate Illinois Learning Standards and that the student's grade is included in the GPA according to the district's policy.
Strategic Plan Goal Alignment	Goal 1: Student Achievement By 2031, the district will demonstrate measurable growth and achievement in rigorous academic, physical, and social-emotional standards, with reduced disparities among student groups.
Background or historical information	This legislation provides an exciting opportunity for District 33 students enrolled in Advanced Spanish. Our current Advanced Spanish curriculum was developed approximately three years ago and was intentionally aligned to the ACTFL and Spanish Language Arts standards. We recently reviewed the two curricula side by side and we identified some areas where the rigor and sequence can be further refined. In particular, some of the learning targets and content included in SNS 1 are already addressed in our current 7th-grade Advanced Spanish course. District 33 and District 94 will work collaboratively to ensure that the Advanced

	Spanish curriculum is appropriately aligned with the high school SNS sequence. District 33 will: • Develop an outline identifying where the learning targets and units addressed in SNS 1 are currently taught within the 7th- and 8th-grade Advanced Spanish courses. • Identify opportunities to strengthen the progression and rigor of the 7th- and 8th-grade curriculum. • Collaborate with District 94 teachers to review curriculum expectations and provide feedback. District 94 will: • Review the SNS 1 learning targets to ensure that they are appropriately rigorous and align with the expected level of proficiency for a 9th grade student who has completed the Advanced Spanish courses • Collaborate with District 33 to identify gaps, redundancies, and opportunities for stronger vertical alignment. Both districts will also facilitate several collaborative meetings in which teachers from District 33 and District 94 can review the curriculum together, discuss expectations for students, and provide feedback on the alignment between middle school Advanced Spanish and the high school SNS sequence. This opportunity is particularly exciting for students who have participated in District 33's Dual Language Program since kindergarten. These students have had years of sustained Spanish language instruction and have developed significant levels of Spanish proficiency. Students in the Dual Language Program participate annually in the AAPPL assessment, and our students have consistently performed above the state average. The Advanced Spanish pathway provides an opportunity to build upon that strong foundation and allow students to earn meaningful high school credit while continuing their development of bilingualism and biliteracy. By the end of the 2026-2027 school year: • Students who successfully complete the Advanced Spanish course and pass their final exam will receive high school credit for Spanish for Native Speakers 1 (SNS 1). • Students who earn SNS 1 credit will be eligible to continue into Spanish for Native Speakers 2 (SNS 2) in high school.
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Previous decisions, actions or parameters that relate to this topic or issue	
Recommendation	
Other Questions	