

District Assessment Framework

The Leyden High Schools offer a comprehensive assessment program in the interest of providing better information to our students, their parents, and their teachers as we plan together for the students' life beyond high school. Entering freshmen are placed into classes following the administration of the Explore examination, which is taken in the fall preceding their August enrollment. Freshmen and sophomores take 'mirror' exams in the spring – practice tests that provide valuable information on areas of strength as well as those targeted for improvement. Since all juniors are now required to take the ACT as part of the Prairie State Achievement Examination, we test all sophomores with the PLAN exam – a testing experience that is similar in content and format to the high-stakes ACT of the junior year. In addition to the measures of academic performance that the PLAN test offers, students receive valuable information from a detailed career inventory.

District 212 is committed to following the progress of each Leyden student. Our comprehensive assessment framework provides an ongoing tracking of individuals within academic programs to assure their maximum success at our school.

	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade
	<i>EXPLORE</i>		<i>PLAN</i>	
Spring		<i>Mirror PLAN</i>	<i>Mirror ACT Practice Work Keys</i>	<i>PSAE (ACT and WorkKeys)</i>

Student-Initiated Placement Changes

Freshmen: Moves up in level will occur only at the semester, provided the student has documented this error in placement with outstanding achievement (typically 97% or higher). Moves down in level will occur after the first progress report, provided that students have turned in a preponderance of homework, received extra help frequently from the teacher, and are deemed by the teacher and chair to be academically misplaced. Our intention is NOT to reward apathetic students with a path of less resistance; such movement should correct the original misplacement. Placement errors in mathematics may be addressed earlier, due to the sequential, linear nature of the curriculum. Extenuating circumstances in students' personal lives may create reasons for a shift downward. Those requests for level change originate on rare occasions from Student Services.

Grades 10, 11, 12: Leyden's enrollment practices encourage students to select courses most appropriate for their academic success. Teacher recommendations, parental input, and counselor conferences are all important components of this selection process. After course selection is finalized in February, changes can occur based on availability of space in requested courses by following italicized guidelines below. If approved, the change will occur at next most logical break. The \$50 course change fee must be paid in advance.

Moves up in level from Honors to Advanced Placement will be approved or denied based on the recommendations of teachers and the department chair. Due to the specific nature of curricular sequencing that supports high performance on the Advanced Placement Examination, these exceptional moves should be considered as early in the school year as possible without regard to quarter or semester breaks.

Moves down in level at times other than the semester will occur only when extenuating circumstances in a student's personal life create reasons for a shift or when a student has turned in a preponderance of homework, received extra help frequently from the teacher, and is deemed by the teacher and chair to be academically misplaced. These exceptional cases will not be subject to the \$50 fee.