

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

June 2, 2026

SUBJECT:

Local School Board Courses for 2026 - 2027

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The school board must approve locally designed courses annually.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

The Division of Instruction has evaluated the new requests for local approved courses for 2026 - 2027 and finds them to be consistent with district educational goals.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the additional Local School Board Courses for 2026 -2027.

ATTACHMENT:

Middle School Local Board Approved Course Proposals for 2026 - 2027.
High School Local Board Approved Course Proposals for 2026 - 2027.

PREPARED BY:

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Middle School
LBA Course Proposals
2026.2027

School	Course Name	Content Area	Grade	Status	Description
ALL	Creative Reading & Writing	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	To assist students in developing proficient reading/writing skills through the use of a variety of texts and strategies
ALL	Cyber Defense	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	Introduces core cybersecurity principles alongside essential computer networking concepts. Students gain foundational, hands-on skills in network architecture and digital defense, preparing them for advanced studies and career pathways in the rapidly growing cyber sector.
ALL	Digital Media Arts	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	Digital Media Arts introduces students to the fundamentals of digital illustration, graphic design, and animation. Through collaborative and independent design challenges, students will master digital software, learn the core elements of art, and create a diverse portfolio of original digital media.
ALL	Intro to Coding	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	This introductory course teaches the foundational concepts of computer science and computer programming to prepare students for future STEM pathways.
ALL	Personal Finance	Exploratory	6	Continuing	This course introduces middle schoolers to real-world money management. Students will shift from passive consumers to financially literate decision-makers by exploring how choices today impact their future financial freedom. Through hands-on simulations and project-based learning, students will practice budgeting, analyze career earnings, navigate the banking system, and discover how to make money grow.
ALL	Financial Literacy	Exploratory	7-8	Continuing	Bridging the gap between math and real life! Students will use practical math skills to tackle real-world financial challenges—from tracking expenses to mastering long-term investments—while developing a strong foundation in personal finance and responsible financial stewardship.
ALL	Middle Level Math Essentials	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	Math Essentials equips students with the foundational skills and mathematical fluency necessary for success in middle school and higher-level mathematics. The course focuses on reinforcing core concepts, developing problem-solving strategies, and building the academic confidence.

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School	Course Name	Content Area	Grade	Status	Description
ALL	Study Skills	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	This course equips students with the essential metacognitive strategies, time-management frameworks, and collaborative skills necessary for 21st-century academic success. Rather than focusing on passive memorization, students actively build personalized learning systems and engage in a structured peer-tutoring network.
ALL	Public Speaking	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	Master the art of confident communication. This course introduces students to various types of public speaking, from persuasive and informative speeches to impromptu presentations. Students will develop essential skills in speech writing, audience analysis, vocal delivery, and body language, building the confidence needed to speak effectively in any setting.
ALL	W.I.N (What I Need)	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	W.I.N. is a personalized academic block designed to meet students exactly where they are. This course equips students with essential study habits and organization strategies while providing dedicated time for peer collaboration and academic support. Guided by teachers, students utilize this time to bridge learning gaps, complete coursework, and take charge of their own academic growth.
All	Reading Essentials	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	Reading Essentials helps middle school students build the core strategies needed to tackle complex texts with confidence. The course emphasizes vocabulary growth, active reading comprehension strategies, and critical analysis of both informational and literary texts. Designed to bridge academic gaps, this class equips students with the essential literacy tools required for lifelong school and career success.
ALL	STEM Cyber	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	In this hands-on class, students learn how technology, engineering, and internet safety work in the real world. Working just like real scientists and engineers, students will team up to solve tricky problems, build cool projects, and learn how to keep digital information safe from hackers.

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School	Course Name	Content Area	Grade	Status	Description
ALL	Yearbook Production	Exploratory	7-8	New	In this creative course, students master digital layout software, photography, graphic arts, and journalistic writing to design and produce the school yearbook. Working as a collaborative team, students will develop vital real-world skills in media production, project management, and visual communication.
ALL	AVID	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is a national college readiness system designed to motivate and support students on their path to academic and personal success. This is done by developing positive self-concept, reflection and advocacy skills while engaging in a rigorous curriculum that focuses on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. The mission of AVID is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.
ALL	Exploring Engineering	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	This course introduces middle schoolers to the diverse fields of engineering through fun, collaborative design challenges. Students will learn to think like engineers as they prototype, test, and refine their own inventions using the Engineering Design Process.
ALL	Multimedia Basics	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	Multimedia Basics introduces middle schoolers to the fundamentals of graphic design, video editing, photography, and audio production. Through collaborative, project-based learning, students will master the digital tools needed to create compelling media and tell powerful visual stories.
ALL	Theatre	Exploratory	6-8	New	This course introduces students to the foundational elements of theatre. Through hands-on activities and collaborative projects, students will explore the basics of acting, script analysis, stagecraft, and the cultural history of performance, building confidence both on and off the stage.
ALL	PSAT Foundations & Prep Course	Exploratory	7-8	New	This course prepares students in seventh and eighth for future success on the PSAT and other college readiness exams by strengthening foundational skills in reading comprehension, grammar, writing, and mathematics. Students will learn test-taking strategies, develop critical thinking skills, and build confidence through regular practice and timed assessments.

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ALL	Intro to AVID	Exploratory	7-8	Continuing	This preparatory course equips students with the essential organizational, critical thinking, and leadership skills needed to thrive in rigorous academic environments. Designed as a stepping stone into the full AVID elective, students will practice student-success strategies and help lead the implementation of AVID culture schoolwide.
KMS	Leadworthy	Exploratory	7-8	Continuing	Leadworthy equips students with foundational leadership and personal development skills. Utilizing the framework of the Capturing Kids' Hearts Leadership Model, the course focuses on cultivating emotional intelligence, effective communication, responsible decision-making, and civic responsibility.
KMS & LBC	Intro to Clay/Ceramics	Exploratory	7-8	Continuing	The goal of this class is to introduce students to the history of clay making and the procedures, techniques and processes of using different clay and clay-like materials to make art.
NEMS	Wolverine Designs & Prints	Exploratory	7-8	Continuing	This STEAM-aligned course elevates student technological proficiency by embedding four foundational ISTE standards into a rigorous, project-based curriculum. Students synthesize advanced digital techniques with artistic concepts to solve commercial design challenges in multimedia and digital printmaking. By integrating professional communication and business operations into the creative process, this course fosters both technical mastery and the lifelong leadership and entrepreneurial skills required for post-secondary and career success.
PKMS	Gardening	Exploratory	6-8	Continuing	This interdisciplinary course utilizes school-based gardening as a dynamic outdoor laboratory, bringing science, mathematics, social studies, language arts, and visual arts to life. By collaboratively designing and maintaining a living ecosystem, students develop vital teamwork, personal responsibility, and environmental stewardship, translating academic concepts into tangible, real-world applications.
SMS	The RAM Factory	Exploratory	7-8	New	Students will engage in entrepreneurship, digital design, and hands-on business operations by creating custom t-shirts, hats, and other merchandise using Cricut machines and heat press technology. This course will integrate AVID instructional strategies to develop students' skills

High School
LBA Course Proposals
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School	Course Name	Department	Credit	Status	Weight	Description if New
All	Adaptive PE 2 - 6	PE	1	Continuing	CP	This course is designed to introduce students to help assist Special Olympians to receive specific training and instruction in the events that they will be competing in at the upcoming Special Olympics. The student will also promote and teach physical growth and development of basic skills in team and individual sports and recreational lifetime activities. This is the second course in this program.
All	African American Literature	ELA	1	Continuing	CP	This course introduces students to the large and diverse array of works that form the African American literary tradition and examines the development of the African American literary tradition through the consideration of history, literary genres, and cultural forms. We will study a range of genres, including fiction, poetry, drama, autobiography, and nonfiction.
All	African American Studies 1 & 2	Social Studies	1	Continuing	CP	AAS 1: Students study the history of African Americans from mid 1400s to 1915. AAS2: Students study the history of African Americans from 1916 to present.
All	Art: Fiber & Textile 2	Fine Arts	1	Continuing	CP	A continuation of Fiber & Textile 1
All	AVID Elective (9, 10, 11, 12)	Any	1 or 0.5	Continuing	CP	Students will work on academic and personal goals and communication, adjusting to the high school setting. Students will increase awareness of their personal contributions to their learning as well as involvement in their school and community. There is an emphasis on analytical writing and focusing on personal goals. Students will work in collaborative settings, learning how to participate in collegial discussions and use sources to support ideas and opinions. Students will refine study skills and test-taking, note-taking, and research techniques. Students will take an active role in field trips and guest-speaker preparations and presentations. Their college research will include financial topics and building their knowledge of colleges and careers of interest.
All	AVID Leadership 9, 10, 11, 12	Any	0.5 or 1.0	Continuing	CP	Primarily developed for AVID Schools
All	Band-Flags (Color Guard) 1 - 4	Fine Arts	1	Continuing	CP	Students who participate in Marching Band Color Guard
All	Career Internship	CTE	0.5 or 1.0	Continuing	CP	Students will develop skills in their CTE completer program through an internship setting.
All	Career Readiness 1 - 2	Any	0.5	Continuing	CP	Primarily utilizes the Edmentum Courseware program and is designed to assist students in scoring higher on the WIN career readiness assessment or ASVAB.
All	College Readiness ELA - ACT or SAT Designation	Any	0.5	Continuing	CP	Primarily utilized Edmentum Courseware program for ACT or SAT preparation. Course is assigned based on student preference by test.
All	College Readiness Math - ACT or SAT Designation	Any	0.5	Continuing	CP	Primarily utilized Edmentum Courseware program for ACT or SAT preparation. Course is assigned based on student preference by test.
All	Early American History	SS	1	Continuing	CP	Course will be designed to cover the early days of American History and can be used to pair with the US History course or as a stand-alone elective. Students will learn about the early days of America.

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MVHS, NAHS	Exploring Aviation and Aerospace	Any	0.5	Continuing	CP	Curriculum designed and approved by vendor.
All	Film Studies	Any	1	Continuing	CP	Students will participate in developing their ability to think critically, enhance written and oral communication skills and perform situational analysis skills through studying movies and excerpts from films. They will be performing story and visual analysis followed by Socratic Seminar discussions and studying film history important to our culture.
MVHS, NAHS	Flight Planning	Any	0.5	Continuing	CP	Curriculum designed and approved by vendor.
MVHS, NAHS	Flying Environment (The)	Any	0.5	Continuing	CP	Curriculum designed and approved by vendor.
All	Freshman Success/Lead Worthy	Any	1	Continuing	CP	Capturing Kids' Hearts Schools teach the LeadWorthy curriculum to students in grades 9 through 12. This course is designed to teach leadership skills to students and explore career awareness and community service opportunities.
All	Genealogy	Any	1	Continuing	CP	Genealogy is a comprehensive introduction to the field of genealogy, the study of one's ancestry and family history. This course will provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to research and document their family trees. Through a combination of lectures, hands-on research, and assignments, students will explore various resources, techniques, and methodologies used in genealogical research.
All	Heroes and Myths	ELA	0.5	Continuing	CP	The course will instruct students on the connections among cultural heroes, mythology, and Campbell's Hero's Journey.
All	JROTC Drill, Ceremonies & Leadership 1 - 4	JROTC	1	Continuing	CP	Section is designed as an option for Cadet Leadership to be assigned to class periods where they need to serve in a leadership capacity
MVHS, NAHS	Launching Into Aviation	Any	0.5	Continuing	CP	Curriculum designed and approved by vendor.
MVHS	Leadership: Impact Through Action	ELA	1	Continuing	CP	Specific to a program designed by MVHS to work with leadership students.
All	Literature in Role Playing Games	ELA	1	Continuing	CP	Literature Studies in Role Playing Games is an English Language Arts elective course for students who have already developed or wish to explore a new interest in interactive storytelling. Students will be able to interact with existing fantasy and science-fiction role playing games in order to comprehend rules, roles, and other types of technical writing ie. charts, tables, graphs, etc.; read biographies, mythologies, and other historical narratives in order to analyze the process of character and world building; and synthesize creative writing, digital media, and other available technologies in order to create a collaborative, original Role Playing Game.
All	Military History and Tactics	SS	1	Continuing	CP	The course is intended to provide students with an overall context of military history and strategy/philosophy while examining specific case studies in US and world history. Students will take a proactive role in examining military issues, battles, leaders, and current events.
All	Musical Theatre	Fine Arts	1	Continuing	CP	Students will apply musical skills to developing theater programs.

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All	Mythology	ELA	1	Continuing	CP	The course is designed to develop in the students the habits of analysis, understanding, and appreciation for myth in a disciplined and creative manner. Students will investigate the patterns and archetypes of world mythology by reading a variety of ancient myths as well as plays, short stories, poems, and novels that utilize themes and characters inspired by myth and will write in both expository and creative modes. Students will study the mythology of ancient Greece and Rome as well as Scandinavia, Egypt, Africa, Japan, Europe, and the Americas. Emphasis is on the influence of such works on our own literature, culture, and language. There are two main objectives. One is to read a variety of myths and legends focusing on the content of literary elements. The second is to see the influence of Greek and Roman mythology, as well as a sample of other world myths and legends, on the literary world.
All	Next Bridge (Formerly Project Search)	Special Ed	4	New	CP	Next Bridge (formerly Project Search) is an unpaid internship program for young adults, ages 18-21, with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The program is designed for those who have a strong desire to gain employability skills that will lead to competitive employment. Participants prepare for competitive employment through a combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training in real work environments. Interns learn employability and job skills while participating in three 10-week internships. The program provides individualized job development based on the interns' interests, experiences, strengths, and skills. The goal for each intern is to secure competitive, integrated employment in their community by the end of the academic school year.
All	Outdoor Living	Any	1	Continuing	CP	This course is designed to introduce outdoor adventure activities in a leisure setting that may be enjoyed for a lifetime. Students will acquire skills for camping, outdoor recreation, environmental conservation, adventure education and a diverse assortment of educational experiences. The students will be provided the opportunity to learn the importance of character building through directly experiencing activities which demand respect, responsibility, trustworthiness and courage for survival. Students will be offered certifications for Hunter and boater safety. Students will also have an opportunity to do archery in a safe environment. We will also work with staff members to help beautify the campus. During football season we will help clean up the stadium each Friday to ensure that it is ready for the community and students to enjoy for the game.
All	PE Weight Lifting 5 - 8	PE	1	Continuing	CP	Focus on weight training activities primarily for athletes and students who wish to work in muscular fitness.

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School	Course Name	Department	Credit	Status	Weight	Description if New
All	Peer Mediation 1	Any	1	Continuing	CP	To empower students to resolve conflicts with knowledge and skills that develop healthy communication. This program seeks to instill the values of teamwork, tolerance, and peacemaking, and it gives students the opportunity to practice what they learn in a meaningful service-learning project.
All	Peer Mediation 2	Any	1	New	CP	Continue the skills taught in Peer Mediation 1 with more application of the following: To empower students to resolve conflicts with knowledge and skills that develop healthy communication. This program seeks to instill the values of teamwork, tolerance, and peacemaking, and it gives students the opportunity to practice what they learn in a meaningful service-learning project.
ASA	Phoenix Focus P2P Level 1 - 4	Any	0.5 or 1.0	Continuing	CP	Specific to Aiken Scholars Academy: The purpose of this course is to integrate students into the culture and community of Aiken Scholars Academy and to prepare them for a rigorous course of study and early entrance into college. The curriculum will focus on development of the SCHOLAR attributes and will include classroom guidance lessons, structured study time, additional academic support, time management and organization skills and strategies, conflict resolution and peer mentoring, and service learning.
NAHS	Real Life 101	Any	0.5	Continuing	CP	Specific to North Augusta High School: Real Life 101 is an initiative with North Augusta 2000 Community Improvement Foundation, a 501 c (3) non-profit. Real Life 101 is intended to provide practical information to seniors at North Augusta High School relative to matters that they are facing or will face upon completion of their High School work. The program is intended to provide information helpful not only to those continuing their post high school education but also those that are completing their education and will be attempting to enter the work force. The class is a combination of technology-based and lecture-based formats with over 30 topics taught by a volunteer faculty of community and professional business leaders. The instructors will provide more complete, specific outlines and additional materials to the students at the time that each topic is presented. Students will be required to discuss and write responses to the topics presented. These assignments and responses will be kept in their online student journal and will be evaluated weekly.
All	Student Publications	ELA	1	Continuing	CP	Students learn to produce school newsletters and write articles.

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School	Course Name	Department	Credit	Status	Weight	Description if New
All	Survival	ELA	0.5	Continuing	CP	This course is designed to teach and review a variety of survival techniques in order to give students a basic understanding of how to survive and cope in difficult situations without technology to help them. The focus will be using manual methods to read maps, compasses, build emergency shelters, find food, and various survival fire techniques. The course will not make students experts, but give them an idea of what they can do if they are in a survival situation without technology.
All	Technology & The Battlefield	NJROTC	1	Continuing	CP	The main objective of this course is to introduce students to various technologies that have emerged over the last couple hundred years by introducing them through the world conflicts, crisis, affairs, and wars that made them relevant. The course delves into history, geography, culture, political systems, economics, social issues, innovation, inventions, and STEM focus on emerging technologies. The battlefield of regional and world physical conflict, world power thoughts and ideology, and quest for information dominance will be investigated into how technology developed and impacted the balance between sides. Technologies including submarines, drones, lasers, explosives, satellites, information, cybersecurity and internet security, GPS/orienteering/land navigation, weather prediction and tools, nuclear weapons and energy, medical advancements, supply chain management and many others will be discussed. Throughout the course, there are individual and group activities, STEM discussions, technology enrichment, readings, review questions, video segments, and assessments to guide in the reinforcement of the materials.
All	Women's Studies	SS	1	Continuing	CP	The main focus of this course will be women and their societal advancement through American History. Discussion of the status of women in a more global perspective will occur. Women's Studies examines the experiences and contributions of diverse groups of women in American society. This course will provide knowledge about the social role of women and their involvement in areas such as health, history, and political activism.
All	Yearbook 2	ELA	1	Continuing	CP	Students will learn publication and editing skills and participate in the creation of school yearbook.
All	Yearbook 3, 4 & 5	ELA	1	Continuing	H	Continuation of the Yearbook class which documents the school year and builds the annual school yearbook. Students will continue publication and editing skills and participate in the creation of school yearbook.