

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2026-2027 • *In-person, teacher-led instruction*

Program overview. Keys Educational Resource Center provides small-group, in-person instruction designed to meet students where they are while maintaining rigorous academic expectations. Courses use explicit instruction, discussion, guided practice, projects, labs, field experiences, and individualized support. Instruction is informed by the current Florida Course Code Directory and applicable Florida academic standards; Keys may adapt pacing, texts, examples, and learning activities to students' needs.

Delivery verification. All courses listed in this catalog are delivered in person at Keys Educational Resource Center. Digital resources may supplement instruction, but the courses are not self-paced online programs.

English 1

Florida alignment: 1001310 | Grades 9-12 | 1 credit

Students build foundational high-school literacy through the close reading of literary and informational texts, including classic literature, essays, speeches, and contemporary works. Instruction emphasizes vocabulary, grammar, evidence-based discussion, research, and the writing process. Students produce narrative, expository, and argumentative writing; analyze theme, characterization, structure, perspective, rhetoric, and figurative language; and strengthen speaking, listening, and presentation skills.

English 2

Florida alignment: 1001340 | Grades 9-12 | 1 credit

Students deepen their ability to comprehend and analyze increasingly complex literary and informational texts. Using literature, essays, and speeches as mentor texts, students examine universal themes, archetypes, author's craft, rhetoric, argument, and the influence of historical and cultural context. Writing includes sustained argument, exposition, literary analysis, narrative, research, revision, and command of standard English conventions.

English 3

Florida alignment: 1001370 | Grades 9-12 | 1 credit

Students study complex literature and nonfiction with substantial attention to American voices, ideas, and rhetoric. They evaluate claims and evidence, compare treatments of common themes, analyze language and structure, and integrate information from multiple credible sources. Students write complex narratives, explanatory and analytical compositions, and evidence-based arguments while refining research, oral communication, vocabulary, and editing skills.

English 4

Florida alignment: 1001400 | Grades 9-12 | 1 credit

This senior-level course prepares students for college, career, and civic communication through rigorous reading, writing, research, discussion, and presentation. Students analyze complex literary and informational texts, evaluate rhetoric and reasoning, synthesize multiple sources, and write polished arguments, explanations, analyses, and narratives for varied audiences and purposes. Emphasis is placed on independence, clarity, academic integrity, and command of language.

Biology 1

Florida alignment: 2000310 | Grades 9-12 | 1 laboratory science credit

Students investigate living systems from the molecular and cellular levels through organisms, populations, and ecosystems. Major topics include scientific inquiry, biochemistry, cell structure and function, photosynthesis and cellular respiration, genetics, DNA and heredity, evolution and natural selection, classification, human body systems, ecology, and environmental change. Laboratory investigations, data analysis, modeling, and evidence-based explanations are integrated throughout.

Chemistry 1

Florida alignment: 2003340 | Grades 9-12 | 1 laboratory science credit

Students explore the composition, properties, and transformations of matter through direct instruction, mathematical problem solving, models, demonstrations, and laboratory investigations. Topics include measurement and scientific inquiry, atomic theory, electron structure, the periodic table, chemical bonding, nomenclature, reactions and stoichiometry, states of matter, solutions, acids and bases, gas behavior, energy changes, and the conservation of mass and energy. Students practice laboratory safety and use evidence to explain chemical phenomena.

World History

Florida alignment: 2109310 | Grades 9-12 | 1 credit

Students examine major civilizations, ideas, movements, conflicts, and turning points in world history, with emphasis on the period from the Renaissance to the present and appropriate historical foundations. The course addresses geography, culture, religion, economics, government, scientific and technological change, imperialism, revolutions, global conflict, human rights, and globalization. Students analyze primary and secondary sources, evaluate historical claims, use chronological and geographic reasoning, and connect past developments to the contemporary world.

Civics / United States Government

Florida alignment: 2106310 | Grades 9-12 | 0.5 credit

This experiential course examines the foundations, structure, functions, and responsibilities of American government. Students study constitutional principles, federalism, separation of powers, civil liberties and civil rights, elections, political participation, public policy, and the roles of state and local government. Primary-source study is paired with authentic civic learning such as public meetings, courthouse and government visits, interaction with public officials, and examination of current policy questions. Students practice respectful deliberation and informed civic participation.

Economics

Florida alignment: 2102310 | Grades 9-12 | 0.5 credit

Students learn how individuals, businesses, and governments make choices under conditions of scarcity. Topics include incentives and trade-offs, supply and demand, market structures, entrepreneurship, labor, money and banking, inflation, unemployment, fiscal and monetary policy, international trade, and comparative economic systems. Instruction connects economic reasoning to current events and personal decision-making and incorporates age-appropriate financial literacy, including budgeting, saving, credit, taxes, insurance, investing, and consumer choices.

Spanish 1

Florida alignment: 0708340 | Grades 9-12 | 1 world-language credit

Students develop beginning proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish through meaningful, high-frequency communication. They learn to exchange personal information, describe people and surroundings, discuss dates, time, school, family, preferences, routines, and everyday needs, and interpret short spoken and written texts. Instruction includes pronunciation, foundational grammar and vocabulary, cultural practices and perspectives, and comparisons between Spanish and English. Students use Spanish in conversations, presentations, games, and practical classroom activities.

HOPE Health and Physical Education

Florida alignment: 3026010 | Grades 9-12 | 1 credit

This integrated health and physical education course helps students develop the knowledge, habits, and decision-making skills needed for lifelong wellness. Health instruction includes nutrition, hydration, sleep, mental and emotional health, stress management, substance-use prevention, personal safety, healthy relationships, disease prevention, and evaluating health information. Physical education includes fitness assessment, cardiovascular endurance, strength, flexibility, personal fitness planning, movement skills, and safe participation in varied activities. Students apply learning through logs, investigations, fitness experiences, food preparation, and a personal wellness plan.

Pre-Algebra

Florida alignment: 1205070 | Middle school | Full-year mathematics course

This complete pre-algebra course develops the mathematical understanding and fluency students need for Algebra 1. The opening Math Boot Camp provides diagnostic assessment, explicit review, and mastery practice in essential prerequisite skills. The full course then addresses rational and irrational numbers, exponents and scientific notation, proportional relationships, linear equations and inequalities, functions, slope and graphing, systems of equations, transformations, the Pythagorean theorem, geometry and measurement, data analysis, and multi-step mathematical modeling. Students explain reasoning, use multiple representations, solve real-world problems, and receive targeted reteaching and reassessment as needed.

Algebra 1

Florida alignment: 1200310 | Grades 8-12 | 1 mathematics credit

This complete Algebra 1 course begins with a Math Boot Camp that diagnoses and strengthens prerequisite computation and pre-algebra skills. Students then study expressions and equations, linear relationships, inequalities, functions, systems, exponents, radicals, polynomials, factoring, quadratic functions and equations, exponential relationships, sequences, statistics, and mathematical modeling. Instruction emphasizes conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, graphing, multiple representations, real-world applications, productive error analysis, and clear mathematical communication. Students receive guided practice, individualized support, and opportunities to revisit skills until mastery.

Geometry

Florida alignment: 1206310 | Grades 9-12 | 1 mathematics credit

This complete high-school geometry course begins with a Math Boot Camp that refreshes the algebra, measurement, and spatial-reasoning skills needed for success. Students study geometric foundations, logic and proof, constructions, transformations, congruence, similarity, triangles, polygons, circles, coordinate geometry,

right-triangle trigonometry, the Pythagorean theorem, and perimeter, area, surface area, and volume. Students use diagrams, models, algebraic methods, technology when appropriate, and written reasoning to solve mathematical and real-world problems and to justify conclusions.

Comprehensive Test Preparation with CLT Focus

Florida alignment: Supplemental | High school | Complete non-credit test-preparation course

This complete test-preparation course builds the reading, mathematics, grammar, and verbal-reasoning skills assessed on college-readiness examinations, with primary emphasis on the Classic Learning Test (CLT). Students complete diagnostic and timed practice, learn pacing and test-taking strategies, analyze errors, and receive focused instruction based on individual needs. Reading instruction emphasizes close reading, comprehension, inference, author's purpose, rhetoric, argument, and analysis of challenging literary, historical, philosophical, and informational passages. Mathematics instruction reviews arithmetic, algebra, geometry, data interpretation, quantitative reasoning, and efficient problem-solving strategies. Verbal-reasoning lessons include etymology, Greek and Latin roots, analogies, vocabulary in context and usage, word relationships, parts of speech, grammar, syntax, and editing. Progress is monitored through recurring practice and targeted reteaching.

Standards Alignment and Sources

Florida-aligned course titles and codes were checked against the current CPALMS Course Directory. Full benchmark lists remain available on the linked official course pages. Supplemental courses are locally designed supports and are not represented as separate Florida credit-bearing courses.

- English 1-4: <https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourse/Preview/23457>
- Biology 1: <https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourse/Preview/21056>
- Chemistry 1: <https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourse/Preview/4360>
- World History: <https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourse/Preview/22644>
- United States Government: <https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourse/Preview/633>
- Economics: <https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourse/Preview/16934>
- Spanish 1: <https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourse/Preview/1285>
- M/J Grade 8 Pre-Algebra: <https://www.cpalms.org/previewcourse/preview/10287>
- Geometry: <https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourse/Preview/23375>

Administrative note

Course availability, meeting times, grade placement, and credit designation may vary by enrollment and student program. Families should confirm the student's planned course and credit with Keys before enrollment. This catalog is intended to describe instruction provided by Keys and does not imply that Step Up for Students, the Florida Department of Education, or CPALMS endorses Keys or any particular curriculum.