

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY  
INFORMATIONAL REPORT PRESENTATION ON  
WOMEN IN PERSPECTIVE FOR REGULAR STATUS**

June 24, 2024

**Background Information**

Women in Perspective (WIP) is a course that was created in 2006 under the Office of Reading, English, and Language Arts (RELA) when an English teacher from C. Milton Wright High School proposed an elective course. The proposed year-long elective was proposed with the following objectives:

1. *Discuss their opinions about women's lives past and present*
2. *Examine women's issues, struggles, and achievements in society through the study of various forms of text and non-text pieces.*
3. *Develop a global perspective of women who live in the world.*
4. *Examine and define the female voice by evaluating various elements of narrative and non-narrative forms of creative expression.*
5. *Explore their own identity through discussion, reflective writing, and creative expression.*
6. *Clarify or capture their individual voice and perspective based on their own observations and experiences.*
7. *Create and present projects based on unit themes studied throughout the year.*

Women in Perspective was approved by the General Curriculum Committee and since SY07-08, has been available in the HCPS Course Catalogue as an English Elective. It has primarily been offered at CMHS, FAHS, and JOHS since that time. In SY23-24, there were 33 students enrolled in WIP in two Harford County Public Schools, Fallston High School and Joppatowne High School.

In January 2024, the decision was made within the Division of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment to move WIP from the Office of RELA to the Office of Social Sciences in order to more closely align with state standards. The Office of Social Sciences created a four-person curriculum writing team comprised of the two current WIP teachers (both English teachers) and two Social Science teachers. This team collaborated to make the necessary changes to the existing scope and sequence for the course to align the course to MSDE Social Studies standards.

The team used the College Board AP African American Studies course as a model to create a course that provided a broad overview of a variety of topics within a multidisciplinary scope of Social Sciences, literature, arts and humanities, and sciences. The new scope and sequence are as follows:

1. Our Story/Her Story
  - a. Gender Stereotypes
  - b. Who am I?
  - c. The Status of Women in Human History
  - d. Challenges and Struggles
  - e. Identifying Struggles
2. Women's Health and Welfare
  - a. Historical Struggles

- b. A Case Study on Sylvia Plath
  - c. Struggles Research Project
- 3. Breaking Barriers
  - a. Women in Antiquity
  - b. The First Wave Feminist Movement
  - c. Second, Third, and Fourth Wave Feminism
  - d. African American Activists
  - e. Women's History Month Project
- 4. HERculean Women
  - a. Revolutionary Women
  - b. American Herculean Women
- 5. Women's Voice and Empowerment
  - a. Women in Fashion
  - b. Women in Comedy
  - c. Women in Visual and Culinary Arts
  - d. Women in Music Project

**Discussion:**

This presentation provides an overview of the background, history, and development of this course.

**Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the Board of Education approve Women in Perspective for regular status as a Social Science elective for the 2024-2025 school year.