

IK – EARNING OF HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Students can earn course credit by demonstrating competency of the required coursework and material. Competency is defined as “a demonstration of application of key concepts and skills from an array of Performance Indicators”. Assessment of student competency is the responsibility of the school principal.

Credit will be awarded upon satisfactory demonstration of the required course competencies. This demonstration would be within a body of student work for a specific course. Additionally, credit may also be awarded if a student is able to demonstrate learning experience in compliance with the district-specified curriculum and assessment standards.

Interdisciplinary Credit

High school students may earn course credit in one content area required for graduation and apply said credit in a different content area through the awarding of interdisciplinary credit. The High School Principal is charged with approving courses for interdisciplinary credit if:

- 1) the course has been adopted by a faculty team and
- 2) the course addresses equivalent district or graduation requirements for the subject areas which are covered by the course.

Credit for 7th and 8th Grade Coursework

The middle school curriculum may include opportunities in which middle school students may receive high school credit. These opportunities are subject to the availability of resources in both the middle school and high school. Implementation of this policy will take into consideration the best interests of both the middle school student and the high school student.

Students in 7th or 8th grade may take advanced courses and apply the credit of those courses toward high school graduation, provided the course demonstrates content requirements consistent with the related high school courses and the student achieves satisfactory standards of performance. The High School Principal is responsible for approving high school credit for middle school student coursework. The following guidelines will apply in the awarding of high school credit for coursework completed by middle school students.

1. Course curriculum must be comparable to a high school level course offered at Epping High School.
2. High school credit may be awarded subject to demonstration of competency based upon the District competency standards.
3. If a student demonstrates high school competency, the middle school course credit will be shown on the student’s high school transcript and be included in the credits for high school graduation. The course grade/credit will not be figured in the calculation of the high school grade point average (GPA).

This policy and its implementation are subject to the district’s due process procedures.

Alternative Credit

Credit may be earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction offered by the Epping High School. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation will be determined by the High School Principal, and will be granted only if the request fulfills the following:

1. The request is submitted with a plan to achieve competency that meets or exceeds the rigorous academic standards required by the school for students enrolled in a credit course offered by the school.
2. The plan includes clear expectations for performance.
3. The plan includes clearly defined methods and expectations for assessment.
4. Verification of the plan's merit can be evaluated in a timely fashion and does not cause unnecessary burden on administration.

The Board encourages increased educational options for hospitalized or homebound students, dropouts, suspended or expelled students, or other atypical students for whom regular classrooms are not practical or effective. It is hoped that such offerings will serve as a motivator for students with different learning styles.

Students earning credit via alternative methods will participate in all assessments required by the statewide education improvement and assessment program.

The Board directs the Superintendent to establish regulations and procedures for implementing this policy that will include:

1. Definitions of allowable alternative learning opportunities
2. Reasonable limits on the number of approved alternative courses that can be administered each school year - school-wide and per student
3. The number of alternative credits each student may use toward graduation requirements
4. Application and approval process
5. Criteria for determining which requests satisfy a particular subject area requirement
6. Identification of person(s) responsible for approval, supervision, and monitoring progress
7. Requirements that alternative opportunities meet the same rigorous academic outcomes as traditional classroom delivery
8. Assurance of student safety including physical and technological
9. Assurance of equal access for all students
10. Assurance that approved alternative learning opportunities are consistent with all policies of this Board
11. The procedure will be made available to the public.

The High School Principal may designate staff or establish a special team to assist with the alternative credit approval, monitoring, and awarding credit process.

It is the policy of the Board that alternative methods for the awarding of credit may include:

1. Competency testing in lieu of enrollment
2. Interdisciplinary credit
3. Satisfactory completion of course requirements at a state approved public career and technical school, accredited public high school, an approved private school, or a home-schooling experience
4. Satisfactory completion of course requirements using a credit recovery program during the school year or the summer session
5. Satisfactory completion of course requirements at an accredited high school summer session
6. Transfer of credits earned by students before enrolling in the district, such as students moving into New Hampshire from another state or country
7. Extended learning opportunities
8. Online/virtual learning opportunities
9. College Credit/Dual Credit
10. Early Graduation
11. Middle school acceleration to the extent that the course work exceeds the requirements for seventh or eighth grade, is consistent with the related high school course(s), and the student achieves satisfactory standards of performance.

Students or their parents/guardians are responsible for all related expenses unless already provided by Epping High School under ordinary circumstances and in existing program. This may include, but is not limited to tuition, textbooks, and transportation. Exceptions may be made if required by state or federal statute or if approved under special circumstances. Funding for special circumstances must be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board. If paid by the District and the course is not completed, the student/parent must reimburse the District for the expenses.

Course Placement Tests

If a student demonstrates knowledge and abilities on a placement pre-test developed by the school district for a particular course, the student will not receive credit for the course, but will be allowed to take a more advanced level of the subject or an elective.

Statutory/Regulatory/Policy/Handbook Cross References

Ed 306.02(e) (Credit)

Ed 306.04(a) (13) (Alternative Means Of Earning Credit)

Ed 306.04(a) (14) (Alternative Means Of Demonstrating Achievement Of Graduation Competencies)

Ed 306.04(a) (15) (How Credit Can Be Earned)

Ed 306.04(a) (16) (How A Credit Used To Track Achievement Of Graduation Competencies)

Ed 306.21 (Alternative Programs)

Ed 302.261(e) (Granting High School Credit for 7th/8th Grade Coursework)
Ed 306.27(aa) (Interdisciplinary Credit)
Handbook (School and Student)

APPROVED/REVISED: December 17, 2009, May 7, 2015, June 7, 2018

PREVIOUS POLICY: None