

CRITERIA FOR CREDIT FLEXIBILITY PLAN

This guideline identifies the criteria relevant to the development of the District's Credit Flexibility Plan. The District Credit Flexibility Plan offers a variety of educational options learning opportunities for all student populations with a focus on performance, acknowledges students' differing learning styles, paces, and interests, and enables students to demonstrate creativity, explore academic and career interests, and practice critical thinking. Students may earn credits by:

- A. traditional
  - 1. completing coursework;
    - a. successfully completing traditional high school level courses for which one credit shall be granted per 120 hours of class time;
  
- B. educational options
  - 1. successfully completing college-level course work for dual credit or post-secondary educational options in accordance with the Board's policy on post-secondary enrollment options.
  - 2. successfully completing an online course offered by a provider approved by the high school principal or the district credit flexibility committee.
  - 3. successfully demonstrating proficiency by testing out on an examination approved by the district.
  - 4. successfully completing a performance and/or project-based assessment and an examination that demonstrates proficiency of academic content standards.
  - 5. successfully completing an independent study demonstrating proficiency of academic content standards.
  - 6. successfully demonstrating proficiency through a combination of the above methods in accordance with the Board's policy on Educational Options.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
BUCYRUS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

STUDENTS  
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The Plan, developed by the District's Educational Options Team in accordance with Ohio's Core Curriculum initiative, provides that:

- A. any student is eligible to be considered for alternative ways to earn credit toward graduation, but students must meet the conditions prescribed in order to earn the credit;
- B. tests used for this purpose shall be either comprehensive exams created for the traditional course (e.g. a course final exam), state-approved assessments (e.g. end-of-course exams), published assessment instruments covering relevant content approved by the Superintendent or his or her designee, or a combination of these options. The district shall communicate to students how assessment instruments used will be scored and how the number of credits awarded and grade assigned will be determined based on scores earned before the assessment is administered.
- C. issuance of credit will be determined locally by the secondary principal.
- D. when educational options are utilized, the school and students will pre-identify and agree on the criteria of learning outcomes;
- E. provisions of the Plan shall be communicated to students and parents on an on-going basis using multiple communications strategies including but not limited to;
  - 1. parent/student handbook
  - 2. course curriculum guide
  - 3. district website

Data concerning the methods and frequency of communication with students and families will be reported to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).

- F. performance data shall be collected and analyzed, including the number of students participating in the Plan, total credits earned, and the extent to which student participation reflects the demographic diversity of student enrollment;
- G. an appeals process shall be available in the event that a proposed credit alternative is denied by the school or District;
- H. credits earned under the Plan shall be reported on student transcripts in the same way that traditional coursework credit is reported;

- I. the Board will review the policy provisions and the District Credit Flexibility Plan regularly.

The following component of Ohio's Core Curriculum Initiative shall be included in the development, review, and implementation of the District's Credit Flexibility Plan:

- A. Demonstrated proficiency options shall be allowed on an on-going basis evaluated through the *Educational Options Agreement Form 2370F1*.
- B. Demonstrated proficiency options shall be allowed to count toward graduation course requirements as well as toward elective credit.
- C. The plan shall not cap nor limit the number of courses or credits that may be earned through approved options.
- D. The plan shall allow for simultaneous credit to be earned in academic and career-technical content in more than one (1) academic content or course (department) area, and in secondary and postsecondary study.
- E. The plan shall allow for partial credit to be earned.
- F. Credit will be reported on student transcripts in the same way that seat time is recorded.
- G. The plan shall determine credit equivalency for the Carnegie unit.
- H. The plan shall allow student access to on-line or virtual education, postsecondary options, or programs offered by another district approved by the Board. The Plan may allow for credit to be accepted from other districts and education providers (including on-line providers) in accordance with Ohio's Operating Standards.
- I. The plan shall provide for instances when students do not complete specified requirements for earning credit.
  1. The district reserves the right to reassign a student participating in an educational option to a traditional course or other placement at its discretion if the student fails to meet the standards for ongoing participation and satisfactory progress described in his or her educational options plan. Students who repeatedly fail to meet standards established to document ongoing participation described in his or her educational options plan may be considered truant and subject to penalties for truancy described in the Board's policy on promotion and retention (insert policy reference) and the (student behavior handbook – insert your district's name for this document here.)

- a. Students participating in field-based educational options-related activities (e.g. mentorships and internships with businesses and community organizations) shall be required to adhere to safety rules and standards of behavior and appearance appropriate for the activity setting.
  - b. The district may suspend an approved educational option plan and reassign the student to another setting at its discretion if the host organization reports significant misconduct, tardiness, or absence on the part of the student.
- J. The plan shall provide for student transfer between districts and early graduation.
- K. The plan shall provide for student eligibility in accordance with OHSAA bylaws (441, 448) for interscholastic athletics.
- L. The District shall maintain a "library" of courses that have been approved to assist students, parents, and teachers to understand available options, some of which may be unique to local communities and various regional economic development interests and initiatives.