

Credit Recovery Presentation to D228 Board of Education

September 9, 2010

The HS administration and faculty are proposing a revision to Board policy 6:110 that gives the Superintendent or designee: the ability to develop, maintain, and supervise a program for students at risk of academic failure or dropping out. The last bullet point is Credit Recovery Opportunities.

Board Policy 6:310 describes credit for alternative courses and programs, and course substitutions. Item #2 allows alternative credit for students in their fourth or fifth year. The sentence below sets a maximum of 2 units of credit to be counted towards students' high school graduation.

Nova Net was purchased through a Response to Intervention (RtI) IDEA sub-grant. The main purpose of getting Nova Net for GHS was to have a research-based program for RtI. Nova Net is a subsidiary of Pearson, a recognized educational provider. Nova Net has three main uses at GHS. The first use is for RtI, where by students are tested/screened based upon their past academic performance and EXPLORE or PLAN score. A determination is made if that student needs academic support in math or reading. The second use is as an educational resource for teachers. Nova Net allows a teacher to pull a certain portion of curriculum out and assign a certain section to a specific student or group of students. This can either be for remediation or supplemental work. The third use is credit recovery.

The big question is how far do we want a credit recovery program to reach? The easiest and first group is fourth and fifth year seniors who are behind and need help before May 29th, 2011. But we have some juniors that only have 12-15 credits and sophomores with 8 credits. Do we want to help these groups of students get on track to graduate in four years?

There are some schools with policies that do not accept course grade of failing. Once a student has failed, they must automatically go to Nova Net. Currently, if a student fails the first semester of US History, they stay in second semester US History, but then take semester I over again the next fall. The aforementioned schools require students to drop electives and complete Nova Net activities in a supervised lab.

The building leadership team is evaluating specific course requirements as well as individual academic departments to ensure that a Nova Net class will still meet the High School's rigor and academic demands. Students/parents would need to meet with their counselor and then apply to use the Nova Net option.

Proposals:

1. GHS students should be allowed to make up more than two (2) credits with Nova Net.
2. All GHS student's should be able to make up credits with Nova Net, not just 4th/5th year seniors.

I am working with the leadership team and the Superintendent on different ways students can utilize the Nova Net option for credit recovery during the school day, Saturdays, evenings, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

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Instruction

Programs for Students At Risk of Academic Failure and/or Dropping Out of School and Graduation Incentives Program

The Superintendent or designee shall develop, maintain, and supervise a program for students at risk of academic failure or dropping out of school. The program shall include education and support services addressing individual learning styles, career development, and social needs, and may include:

- Parent-teacher conferences
- Counseling services by social workers and/or guidance counselors
- Counseling services by psychologists
- Psychological testing
- Truants' alternative and optional education program
- Alternative school placement
- Community agency services
- Alternative learning opportunities program, in conformity with the Alternative Learning Opportunities Law, as it may be amended from time-to-time
- Graduation incentives program
- Credit Recovery Opportunities

Any student who is below the age of 20 years is eligible to enroll in a graduation incentives program if he or she:

1. Is considered a dropout according to State law;
2. Has been suspended or expelled;
3. Is pregnant or is a parent;
4. Has been assessed as chemically dependent; or
5. Is enrolled in a bilingual education or LEP program.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.41, 5/2-3.66, 5/13B-1 et seq., 5/26-2a, 5/26-13, 5/26-14, and 5/26-16.

CROSS REF.: 7:70 (Attendance and Truancy)

Adopted by Board Action 10/01/2001
 Amended by Board Action 04/07/2003
 Amended by Board Action 04/16/2009

Instruction

Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs, and Course Substitutions

Correspondence Courses

A student enrolled in a correspondence course may receive high school credit for work completed, provided:

1. The course is given by an institution accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools;
2. The student is a fourth or fifth year senior;
3. The student assumes responsibility for all fees; and
4. The Building Principal approves the course in advance.

A maximum of 2 units of credit may be counted toward the requirements for a student's high school graduation.

Distance Learning Courses, Including Virtual or Online Courses

A student enrolled in a distance learning course, including a virtual or online course, may receive high school credit for work completed, provided:

1. The course is offered by an institution approved by the Superintendent or designee;
2. The course is not offered at the student's high school;
3. The student assumes responsibility for all fees (including tuition and textbooks); and
4. The Building Principal approves the course in advance.

Students may be limited as to the number of distance learning courses that apply toward high school credit. Grades earned in approved distance learning courses count toward a student's grade point average, class rank, and eligibility for athletic and extra-curricular activities. The District may pay the fee for expelled students who are permitted to take virtual or online courses in alternative settings.

Exchange Programs

An exchange student will be granted a diploma only if he or she completes the criteria for graduation established by the State of Illinois and the School Board. The Board may grant a certificate of attendance to exchange students.

District students will receive high school credit for foreign exchange courses that meet the criteria established in the curriculum and that are approved by the Building Principal. International study course work not meeting District requirements may be placed in the student's permanent record and recorded as an international study experience.

Summer School and Independent Study

A student will receive high school credit for successfully completing: (1) any course given by an institution accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and (2) independent study in a curriculum area not offered by the District, provided the student obtains the consent of a supervising teacher as well as the Building Principal.

College Courses

A student who successfully completes community college courses may receive high school credit, provided:

1. The student is a senior in good academic standing;

2. The course is not offered in the high school curriculum;
3. The course is approved in advance by the student's guidance counselor and the High School Principal; and
4. The student assumes responsibility for all fees.

A maximum of 2 units of credit may be counted toward the requirements for a student's high school graduation.

Foreign Language Courses

A student will receive high school credit by studying foreign language in an approved ethnic school program, provided such program meets the minimum standards established by the State Board of Education.

The amount of credit will be based on foreign language proficiency achieved. The Building Principal may require a student seeking foreign language credit to successfully complete a foreign language proficiency examination.

Military Service

The Board may accept military service experience as credit toward graduation, provided the student making the request has a recommendation from the U.S. Commission of Accreditation of Service Experiences. The student seeking credit shall supply any documents or transcripts necessary to support the request.

Vocational Academy

Students enrolled in the Vocational Academy earn credit toward graduation as provided in the Academy's design. This includes coursework completed at the Area Career Center.

Substitutions for Physical Education

A student in grades 9-12, unless otherwise stated, may submit a written request to the Building Principal to be excused from physical education courses for the reasons stated below. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain records showing that the criteria set forth in this policy were applied to the student's individual circumstances.

1. Enrollment in a marching band program for credit;
2. Enrollment in Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program sponsored by the District;
3. Ongoing participation in an interscholastic athletic program (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade). Ongoing participation is defined as continued participation in an athletic program without the student voluntarily quitting the team or being dismissed from the team by the coach/sponsor for rules violations. Students will be waived for one quarter for each season in which s/he participates. Procedural guidelines are included in the course planning guide and student handbook;
4. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for admission to an institution of higher learning (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade); or
5. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the student being unable to graduate (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade).

Students with Individualized Education Program and Physical Education Exemption

A student in grades 3-12 who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses if:

1. The student's parent/guardian agrees that the student must utilize the time set aside for physical education to receive special education support and services, or
2. The student's individualized education program team determines that the student must utilize the time set aside for physical education to receive special education support and services.

The agreement or determination must be made a part of the individualized education program. A student requiring adapted physical education must receive that service in accordance with the student's individualized education program.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.44, 5/2-3.108, 5/2-3.115, 5/2-3.142, 5/10-22.43a, 5/27-6, 5/27-22.3, and 5/27-22.05.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.420(p), 1.440(j), and 4.450(c).

CROSS REF.: 6:180 (Extended Instructional Programs), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:320 (Credit for Proficiency), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Activity)

Adopted by Board Action 06/01/1999
Amended by Board Action 12/11/2008