

## Instruction

### Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs, and Course Substitutions

There are multiple, alternative methods to earn high school credit outside the traditional high school classroom.

#### 1. 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.

#### 2. Geneseo High School Credit Recovery Software

Students may work with their counselor to develop a plan to recover credits needed to graduate. All students wishing to recover credits must have the plan approved by the Building Principal. Students will only be allowed to recover credits of classes previously failed. Students will be limited to recovering credits for courses that are required for graduation, unless in certain situations a student has an alternative plan approved by the Principal.

#### 3. 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, **but would require prior approval.**

#### 4. 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.

### 5. 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.

### 6. 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.

### 7. 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.

### 8. 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.

### 9. 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 10-12, 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 semester 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 requesting a physical education waiver must apply when requesting courses for the next school year. Students with a physical education waiver are required to enroll in a minimum of 6.0 credits during that semester. An athlete who does not make a team or fails to try out for the team must contact a high school counselor immediately to return to physical education class by the following school day. An athlete who quits the team after practice has started will be required to repeat the entire semester of physical education regardless of the waiver status in the following semester. The student is solely responsible for requesting a schedule change if they are no longer eligible for the PE waiver. Failure to follow these directions may compromise the student's graduation status. A physical education waiver will impact a student's grade point average and class rank.

#### 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)

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