

SECTION L: EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS

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Note: Only those items indicated with an * are included in this policy manual.

EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS GOALS

The Board cooperates with other districts and with other local, state and regional agencies and organizations in the solution of educational problems of common concern. This cooperation extends but is not limited to such areas as research, exchange of information and data, coordination of curriculum, coordination of school calendars and activities and construction of facilities which might be efficiently used on a cooperative basis. To serve a broader area, the District may consider other activities.

In carrying out this policy, the Superintendent may include in his/her recommendations to the Board an evaluation of the desirability and feasibility of cooperation with other agencies in endeavors which could benefit the District.

[Adoption date: January 11, 2001]

RELATIONS WITH OTHER SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Board cooperates with other districts and institutions of higher learning for such purposes as:

1. seeking solutions to educational problems of common concern;
2. offering supporting services of high quality to our students;
3. acquiring Federal and State grants and
4. promoting local school system involvement in regional and State decision making.

This cooperation may extend to research, providing transportation for children to special schools and hospitals, coordination of curriculum, exchange of information and data, construction of facilities which may be effectively used on a cooperative basis, sharing of curricular offerings, cooperative purchasing and the coordination of school calendars and activities. This cooperation may also extend to charter schools.

Before joining in any cooperative effort and to serve the best interests of the students, the Superintendent investigates and suggests cooperative ventures and provides the Board with supportive documentation prior to the time the Board is asked to act.

Charter School

The Board considers applications for community schools only if the applicant's proposal contains detailed information addressing all of the provisions contained in ORC sections 3314.03 and 3314.05. The information required is contained in the Ohio Revised Code and a copy is available in the central office.

[Adoption date: January 11, 2001]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3311.19
3313.841
3314.03; 3314.05
3315.09; 3315.091
3323.09

COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

State law permits the establishment of joint vocational school districts to provide career-technical programs for students from participating districts. The District participates in programs conducted under the auspices of the Belmont Harrison Joint Vocational School District (JVSD).

A board of education composed of representatives appointed by the boards of education of the participating districts governs the JVSD. The term of office for each member of the JVSD board of education is three years. JVSD board members are limited to two consecutive terms. Terms are considered consecutive unless separated by three or more years. Members are appointed to the JVSD board by the participating districts in accordance with the JVSD plan. A member will not be appointed to the JVSD board unless they meet the qualifications of State law.

The Board also participates in various programs of the East Central Ohio Educational Service Center, which assists this District in providing special services to the students enrolled in our schools.

[Adoption date: January 11, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: October 24, 2013]

[Re-adoption date: September 17, 2015]

LEGAL REFS.: Ohio Const. Art. VI, Section 2

ORC 3311.19; 3311.191

3313.841; 3313.843

3315.09

3323.09

RELATIONS WITH COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

The Board views education as a lifelong process and believes that education is a key element in the realization of a successful and satisfying life. The Board directs the Superintendent and staff to pursue opportunities for the students to be involved in cooperative efforts with colleges and universities. When possible, arrangements should be developed for students to enroll in college and university courses and programs which should not delay a student's completion of high school graduation requirements.

[Adoption date: January 11, 2001]

STUDENT TEACHING AND INTERNSHIPS

The Board recognizes the contributions student teachers and/or interns can make to the schools and its responsibility to ensure high quality teacher training. The Superintendent/designee is therefore authorized to arrange for the supervision and training of such teachers and interns in the District each year.

The importance of the teacher training function to the future of education and the need to ensure high-quality performance in our schools require student teachers to be placed with experienced teachers of demonstrated competence. While no staff members are required to supervise student teachers, it is expected that professionally interested teachers volunteer for such duties.

The teacher training institutions should provide liaison personnel who discuss with the building principal and with the teacher the broad objectives that the institution believes should be pursued. Such personnel are free to visit the classrooms to observe the student teacher at work, but are subject to all school visitor rules and regulations.

It is expected that the teacher training institution arranges the schedule of the student teacher to provide sufficient time in the classroom in order that continuity of experience for the student teacher and the students is ensured.

[Adoption date: January 11, 2001]

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

The Board recognizes that an effective educational program is one that provides opportunities for students learning both within the classroom and for specific reasons, beyond the traditional classroom and school day. These expanded opportunities are viewed as educational options to supplement the regular school program.

The intent of educational options is to allow educators, other professionals, parents and others to work together to provide opportunities for students to learn in an independent or individual setting and to study or work with recognized experts in specific fields. Educational options are seen as additional curricular opportunities to improve, expand and enrich student learning experiences and perspectives.

Independent study, distance learning, virtual learning, tutoring, educational travel, mentoring and study abroad programs are representative of experiences which the Board views as educational options supplementing the regular school program.

Fees are established for educational options as needed. Participating students are expected to pay fees upon beginning educational options.

The Superintendent develops regulations when the educational options are initiated. Each program option developed is presented to the Board for adoption; its regulations are presented for approval.

[Adoption date: January 11, 2001]

[Re-adoption date: April 16, 2002]

[Re-adoption date: March 20, 2003]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-01(B)(6); 3301-35-06

CROSS REFS.: IGCB, Experimental Programs
IGCH, College Credit Plus (Also LEC)
IHG, Independent Study
IKE, Promotion and Retention of Students
IKF, Graduation Requirements
JN, Student Fees, Fines and Charges

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

When initiated, educational options must adhere to the following criteria.

1. The parent(s) must provide written approval for students under 18 years of age to participate. A copy of the written approval must be retained in the school files. Students 18 years of age or older must submit a written request to participate. This request is kept on file.
2. An instructional plan which contains written measurable objectives must be submitted to and approved by, the Superintendent.
3. The instructional plan includes an outline specifying major instructional activities and identifying materials, resources, facilities and equipment needed to achieve instructional objectives.
4. Promotion and retention decisions for students, kindergarten through eighth grade, participating in an optional instructional plan are based on student performance relative to the objectives of the option.
5. The instructional plan includes a written plan for the evaluation of student performance.
6. A maximum of six credits may be applied to those required for graduation for grades nine through 12. No more than four of the six credits are applied to the credits required for graduation in English, health, mathematics, science, physical education and social studies.
7. In tutorial programs and programs of independent study, a certificated teacher provides both the instruction and evaluation of students. In all other cases, a certificated teacher provides only the evaluation of student progress.
8. Such courses and programs do not compete with courses offered within the regular program of studies unless such are not available for the student when needed or are not being taken for credit.
9. The written instructional plan includes a time for the evaluation of the educational option. Continuance of the option is determined by the results of evaluation.

(Approval date: January 11, 2001)

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

State law provides for student participation in the College Credit Plus (CCP) program for the purposes of promoting rigorous academic pursuits and exposing students to options beyond the high school classroom. Therefore, eligible 7th through 12th grade students may enroll at any public college/university and any participating nonpublic college/university on a full- or part-time basis and complete nonsectarian, nonremedial courses for transcribed high school and/or college credit.

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop and establish the necessary administrative guidelines to ensure that the CCP program is operating in accordance with state requirements.

[Adoption date: January 11, 2001]
[Re-adoption date: May 21, 2009]
[Re-adoption date: May 19, 2011]
[Re-adoption date: September 17, 2015]
[Re-adoption date: September 28, 2016]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC Chapter 3365
OAC 3333-1-65 through 3333-1-65-11
3301-83-01(C)

CROSS REFS.: IGBM, Credit Flexibility
IGCD, Educational Options (Also LEB)

COLLEGE CREDIT PLUS

District Obligations

The District is required to notify all 6th through 11th grade students and their parents about the College Credit Plus (CCP) program through multiple, easily accessible resources by March 1 of each school year. The notice includes all information required by State law. The District promotes the CCP program on the District website, including details of current agreements with partnering colleges.

Students and/or parent(s) are required to submit written notice of intent to participate to the principal by April 1 of the year in which the student wishes to enroll and may submit written notice as early as February 15. Failure to inform the principal by the April 1 deadline of intent to participate shall result in the student having to secure written permission from the principal in order to participate in the program.

The District holds an annual informational session between October 1 and February 15 to which partnering colleges located within 30 miles of the school (or the closest college if none are located within 30 miles) are invited. The informational session includes information on benefits and consequences of participation in CCP, and outlines any changes or additions to program requirements.

The District is required to provide counseling services to students prior to their participation in the program. Counseling services include but are not limited to:

1. program eligibility;
2. any necessary financial arrangements for tuition, textbooks and fees;
3. process of granting academic credits;
4. criteria for any transportation aid;
5. available support services;
6. scheduling;
7. the effect of the grade attained in the course being included in the student's grade-point average, if applicable;
8. consequences of failing or not completing a course under the program, including the effect on the student's ability to complete District graduation requirements;

9. benefits to the student of successfully completing a course under the program, including the ability to reduce the overall cost of, and the amount of time required for, a college education;
10. academic and social responsibilities of students and parents relative to this program;
11. information about and encouraging the use of college counseling services and
12. the standard program information packet developed by the Ohio Board of Regents.

The District develops both a 15-credit hour and a 30-credit hour model course pathway for courses offered under CCP in consultation with a partnering college. Each pathway must include courses, which once completed, apply to at least one degree or professional certification offered at the college. The pathways may be organized by desired major or career path, or may include various core courses required for a degree or professional certification by the college. The pathways are published among the school's official list of course offerings for participant selection. No participant is required to enroll only in courses included in a model pathway.

The District implements a policy for awarding grades and calculating class standing for CCP courses that is equivalent to the school's policy for other advanced standing programs or District-designated honors courses. Any grade weighting or class standing enhancements applicable to advanced standing programs or District-designated honors courses are similarly applied to CCP courses.

Student Enrollment

To participate in CCP, a student must apply to, and be accepted by, a participating college in accordance with the college's established procedures for admission. The student also must meet the college's established standards for admission and course placement, including any course specific capacity limits. The student and his/her parent also must sign a form acknowledging receipt of the required counseling and understanding of their responsibilities under the program.

The student may opt to receive college credit only or both college and high school credit. The student must designate his/her choice at the time of enrollment.

If a student completes a college course, the Board shall award him/her appropriate credit toward high school graduation if, at the time of enrollment, he/she elects to receive credit for courses toward fulfilling the graduation requirements.

High school credit awarded for courses successfully completed counts toward graduation requirements and subject area requirements.

1. The Board awards comparable credit for the course/courses completed at the college.

2. If no comparable course is offered, the Board grants an appropriate number of elective credits.
3. Any disputes between the student and the Board regarding high school credits granted for a course may be appealed by the student to the State Board of Education. The State Board's decision on these matters is final.
4. The student's records must show evidence of successful completion of each course and the high school credits awarded. The record must indicate that the credits were earned as a participant in CCP, and include the name of the college at which the credits were earned. The grades and credits for courses completed during summer term must be included on the student's high school transcript in the fall for that school year.
5. Credits earned through CCP are included in the student's grade-point average. College credits count as the equivalent District grade. If the District has a weighted grading system CCP courses are treated in the same way as other advanced standing program or honors course.

High School/College Enrollment

1. A student who enrolls in CCP for the first time in:
 - A. grades 7, 8 or 9 may receive credit toward high school graduation for up to the equivalent of four academic school years.
 - B. 10th grade may receive credit toward high school graduation for up to the equivalent of three academic school years.
 - C. 11th grade may receive credit toward high school graduation for up to the equivalent of two academic school years.
 - D. 12th grade may receive credit for up to the equivalent of one academic school year.
2. Proportionate reductions are made for any student who enrolls in the program during the course of a school year.
3. For the purpose of this program, an academic year begins with the summer term. The maximum number of credits that may be earned during the academic year is the total of the high school courses and college courses. The total may not exceed 30 college credit hours per academic year.
4. College courses for which three-semester hours are earned are awarded one credit toward high school graduation credit. Fractional credits are awarded proportionally.

Summer Term Eligibility

A student who is scheduled or anticipated to graduate from high school may not participate in CCP for any term beginning after the student's scheduled or anticipated graduation date or in any course offered at a college during a summer term that begins during the student's last quarter of high school.

Financial Responsibilities

1. If a student elects to enroll for college credit only (Option A), the student is responsible for all costs associated with the course.
2. If a student elects to enroll for the combination high school/college credit (Option B), the District is responsible for all costs associated with the course at a public college/university. Students participating in CCP under Option B at a private college may be charged tuition and/or fees unless they are economically disadvantaged.
3. If a student fails a CCP course, the student or parent(s) may be responsible for all costs associated with the course. The District may not seek reimbursement from a student who fails a course if he/she is economically disadvantaged, unless the student has been expelled.
4. Students enrolled for the combination of high school/college credit are not eligible for financial aid from the college.
5. Upon parental application and determination of need an eligible student, as defined by State law, enrolling for the combination of high school and college credit in the program may receive full or partial reimbursement for the necessary costs of transportation between the secondary school that he/she attends and the college/university in which he/she is enrolled.

Other Considerations

1. A student enrolled in the program follows the District attendance policy, as well as the District code of conduct, for curricular and extracurricular activities. These policies and codes are applicable during the time the student is attending high school and is on school property for any class or activity.
2. If a student is expelled from the District, the Board will deny high school credit for college courses taken during the period of the student's expulsion.

The Superintendent must send written notice of a student's expulsion to the college where the student is taking courses to receive high school credit. The notice must state the date the expulsion is scheduled to expire and whether the Board has denied high school credit for postsecondary education courses taken during the expulsion. If the expulsion period is extended, the Superintendent must notify the college of the extension. The college may withdraw its acceptance of a student who has been expelled. Unless otherwise authorized by State law, the expelled student is ineligible to enroll in a college under CCP for subsequent college terms during the expulsion period.

3. The student enrolled in this program must recognize that the master schedule is not altered or adjusted in order to permit enrollment. Adjustments to individual schedules may be made by the school administration.
4. The District adheres to the Ohio High School Athletic Association for eligibility to participate in athletics. In order to be eligible, the student must have passed five courses that count toward graduation during the prior grading period. The five courses may be a combination of high school and college courses. Students also must meet any additional District eligibility requirements.

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