

Competency Based Credits

A. Definition:

Competency Based Credit: For purposes of this procedure, a competency based credit is defined as credit earned on a given unit of study for meeting preset levels of proficiency applied to rigorous standards.

Directed Study Course: For purposes of this procedure, a directed study course is defined as an independent course, designed to meet rigorous standards and created in consultation with a teacher in order to explore an academic discipline or interest.

B. Demonstrating Competency

The district will manage the assessment process so that students seeking competency based credit can demonstrate competency/proficiency on selected courses. Assessments will be aligned to local, state or national standards to assure consistency and rigor. The district will select the appropriate assessment instrument(s) from the following:

- A locally developed assessment typically used as an end of course or final assessment (test or project) for a time based course.
- State or national assessments aligned to a specific course (ie. biology EOC assessment).
- An assessment provided by a vendor that demonstrates appropriate rigor and alignment to state or national standards and is approved by both the high school department staff for which the subject is usually taught and the high school principal.
- Directed study courses will be graded consistent with district grading policies and include a summative assessment (test or project).

C. Determining Competency and Credit Equivalencies

The district will award either a half credit or full credit based on the student demonstrating an overall proficiency level according to selected standards as determined each discipline/department and approved by high school administration.

D. Parent/Guardian Consent Required

Students (under the age of 18) electing to earn a competency based credit or who enroll in a directed study course must have parent/guardian consent to do so.

E. Paying for Assessments

The district will set a fee (when applicable) for the assessments to cover administrative costs, test fees, and/or proctoring. Fees may vary depending on the assessment costs. The district will offer financial assistance to students who demonstrate need, such as qualifying for free or reduced price lunch.

F. Reporting Results

The district will provide official test results for each student participating in the assessment process. The high school will record the credits earned on the student's official transcript. Competency based credits will be awarded with a grade of "Pass." Students taking a directed study course will contract with their teacher and agree on whether the course will earn a "Pass/Fail" or letter grade. 06-23-14