

Credit for Proficiency

Students are awarded credit for successful demonstration of knowledge and skills that meets or exceeds defined levels of performance. Most students will demonstrate the necessary proficiency and earn credit through courses taken as part of the regular school program (curriculum, program of study, coursework, etc.); however, students will have opportunities to earn credit outside such settings through demonstration of proficiency. Students may demonstrate proficiency through classroom work, documentation of learning experiences outside of school or a combination of these methods. Student's education plan and profile will determine the balance of credit earned by proficiency and by state instructional hours.

Proficiency is defined as sufficient evidence of student-demonstrated knowledge and skills that meet or exceed defined levels of performance. The intent of offering credit for proficiency is to:

1. Value all learning achieved by individual students;
2. Personalize and bring increased relevance to a student's high school education;
3. Encourage student engagement in learning beyond the classroom in real-world contexts; and
4. Provide more options for students.

Students wishing to receive credit based on proficiency will have their academic program evaluated by the district to determine whether the program complies with all rules and statutes applicable to public schools and may receive credit at the discretion of the district, for previously completed course work and attendance by one or more of the following:

1. Successfully passing an appropriate challenge exam;
2. Providing portfolio/work sample evidence, which demonstrates equivalent knowledge or skill;
3. Providing documentation of prior learning activities or experiences appropriate to the course of study;
4. Work study opportunities;
5. Successfully complete a combination of the requirements set out above.

A credit by proficiency committee comprised of the superintendent or designee, a high school administrator and a teacher from the relevant department will review the evidence to determine whether the evidence satisfies the proficiency criteria for the course. Grades will be assigned on a pass or no pass basis. Students will be notified within 30 days if the collection of evidence has been approved or denied.

If the collection is denied, the specific reason(s) will be discussed with the student with the possibility of resubmission.

Credit approval will be granted only when the student has demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence that he/she has achieved the same level of knowledge and/or skill as would have been accomplished by successful completion of the district course(s) for which credit has been requested.

Prior Learning Credit for Proficiency

Students may provide documentation of prior learning activities or experiences which demonstrates proficiency or mastery of identified standards (knowledge and skills).

Out-of-Class Credit for Proficiency

Credits earned through proficiency options outside the regular school program that meet requirements for an existing course offered in schools will be assigned a "Pass" grade.

Process for earning credit through Out-of-Class or Prior Learning

Students will submit a collection of proficiency evidence that conforms to the criteria for the course according to the school's timelines. Staff will review the evidence to determine whether the evidence satisfies the proficiency criteria for the course and assign a grade of "pass"/"no pass." Students will be notified within 30 days if the collection of evidence has been approved or denied. If the collection is denied, the specific reason(s) will be discussed with the student with the possibility of resubmission.

In-Class Credit for Proficiency

A planned course statement shall be submitted for approval to the building administrator and the director of student achievement. The planned course statement will detail the following:

1. "Learning standards" means what students are expected to know and be able to do (e.g., content standards, essential skills, industry-based knowledge and skills);
2. The "required proficiency" means the defined levels of achievement based on state and local criteria (e.g., state scoring guides, classroom rubrics, national or industry-based criteria);
3. The "assessment evidence" means quantity and quality of student work which demonstrates proficiency or mastery of identified standards (e.g., tests, work samples, projects, daily assignments) and the amount of credit to be awarded.

Community Partnership - Process

The district recognizes off-campus offerings are planned learning experiences in a setting removed from the student's resident school for which credit may be granted by the district. The community is recognized as an extension of the classroom. Involvement in the ongoing activities of the diverse business enterprises, community agencies, accredited institutions, and other government and private organizations can provide valuable education experiences for students.

The organization or business shall:

1. Provide the district with a statement of nondiscrimination, equal access and opportunity;
2. Provide the district with a statement that it compliances with all state and federal laws;
3. Provide the district with a certificate of liability insurance covering student or parental waiver statement for their student enrolled in their program;
4. Annually complete the district's application to be considered a "local program, community partnership and/or career-related learning experience, which will provide students a valuable and comparable learning environment.

The student participating in a community partnership program shall be responsible to demonstrate proficiencies, as outlined above.