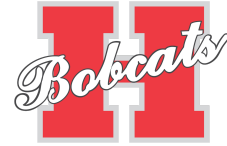


Hope Public School  
117 E 2nd ST  
Hope, AR 71801  
(870) 722-2700



June 29, 2022  
Rev. July 11, 2022

To whom it may concern,

**Request:**

The Hope Public School District is requesting a one year waiver for Standards Accreditation rule 1-A.1.2.7. While Yerger Middle School will continue to provide instruction in Career and Technical Education annually to all students, there is a need to adjust the Career Development offering to grade 8 students for the 2022-2023 school year. Our request is to integrate the Career Development curriculum into our core courses provided by the STAR grant via NOLA with further enrichment within the Computer Science Activity course (388650). The Computer Science Activity course (388650) will add business and professional applications for various social media forums and other online platforms. The goal is to create a STEM focused curriculum and environment to give students real world knowledge and familiarity with our ever changing career opportunities. Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, both Career Development (399280) and Keyboarding (399050) will be given to all grade 7 students moving forward. The development of the STEM focused Computer Science Activity (388650) and a career focused core curriculum will continue on in subsequent years as our Career and Technical Education (CTE) as required by Standards Accreditation rule 1-A.1.2.7.

**Rationale:**

ALL grade 8 students will be part of the STAR grant (funded by NOLA) that is designed to drive us toward becoming a STEM focused school. The day will consist of the 4 core subjects along with Art, PE/Health, and Athletics/Band. Art/PE/Health will be a single period that rotates in a quarterly/semester rotation as needed. Additionally, students will have a STEM focused Computer Science Activity course (388650) to serve as enrichment and will be career focused using business applications for social media/internet research/digital and web design. The STAR grant gave the school a minimum of 56 minutes per class period, so we only have seven periods throughout the day. Working in a semester of Career Development is not possible within the time constraints. Therefore, the school is seeking to move the Career Development to grade 7 to team in a semester rotation with Keyboarding. The problem is that rising grade 8 students will then be unable to take the required Career Development course during

middle school. In order to avoid an Accreditation Standards violation while still providing the required content, we are seeking to embed the content of Career Development. The school will integrate Career Development learning experiences into the enrichment period (388650) and in our four core subject areas. We would only need this waiver for the 2022-2023 school year.

Though Yerger Middle School would continue to meet the primary criteria of offering a CTE course annually to its students, without this waiver, 2022-2023 grade 8 students will not meet the further criteria set forth by 1-A.1.2.7:

“Students should have a semester of Career Development AND a semester of Keyboarding or Keycode in grades 7 or 8.” (namely Career Development, 300280).

Thank you in advance for considering this request for a waiver of Standards Accreditation rule 1-A.1.2.7 with the specificity described above.

Regards,

Dr. Jonathan Crossley, Superintendent  
Hope Public School District

Re. by Mike Radebaugh, Principal  
Yerger Middle School