Request to change policy 6:310

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Policy 6:310: Correspondence Course - credit limit of two (2)



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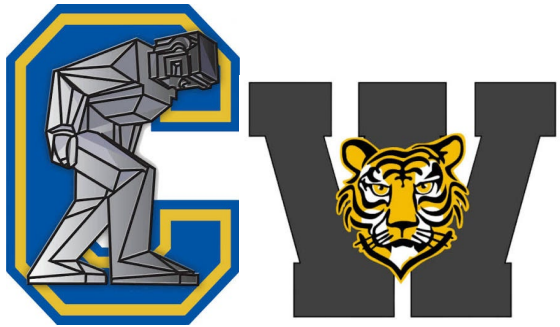
Personal - Story
(What got me here)

I took French 1 online in Rosetta Stone (American school) this was because I wanted to make room for more AP classes and courses that will help me to further education.

I realized I could only take 2 courses online, meaning I have less room to improve my french, less room to accelerate.

During the summer I reached out to Dr. Guseman wanting to know how I could present the problem and the possible solutions to it.

I am here to hopefully by the end of this presentation convince every board member to change policy 6:310 for the betterment of JTHS District 204



Why it's different at other schools

Shift in mindset & trust vs damage

Following schools view this as an accredited online learning program and a legitimate partner. Their school board policy is written to trust the independent learning as an equal rigor.

Administrative system

They contain a structure, a counselor must look &approve the online taking course of the student.

Focusing on flexibility

The following schools prioritize scheduling. Creating the structured processes to review, approve, and accept outside credits. They work with the students' needs.

Removed its policy completely

Up to 6.0 credits, 2.0 for core subjects, 4.0 for electives

No credit limit, its up to the superintendent's discretion

Up to 3.0 credits OR 4 classes

How is this beneficial to students?

Early Graduation

With a cap that is larger and 2.0 credits you can be able to accelerate much more while students take it during the summer or the evening after school is completely optional.

1

Elective customization

High schools can only offer classes that enough students sign up for. A niche elective like - AP EURO, AP african american studies, or simply an advanced class but not enough students signed for it then you won't be able to take the class

2

Solving scheduling problems

If a student wants to take a class that is only offered a certain period but they are in a class that is offered only in that exact period they are forced to drop one of their two classes. An extended cap allows student to take both classes.

3

Life itself

Students that face chronic medical conditions, mental health issues, athletic schedules (before or after school), or simply family issues often can't be in the schedule of 8:20 - 3:15. Allowing an extended cap allows for them to obtain credit.

4

Why should we implement it

It prepares students for the real world (college and careers)



Modern institutions, colleges, universities, and corporations rely heavily on independent, digital environments. Student learn various skills such as time management, digital communication, and self motivation.

It lowers dropout rates and reliev counseling stress



allows students to be able to schedule classes online in which they go at their own pace which causes less counseling stress and it keeps at -risk students on path for graduation without forcing them to re take classes over the next school year or do any other alternative work.

The Issue

Joliet Township District 204 currently caps non-traditional credits at 2.0



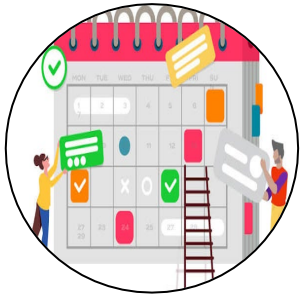
Academic cap for overachievers

High achieving students are being blocked from advancing in subjects. Once they hit that cap they can't continue what they started and in some cases the school does not offer what they want to learn online.



College disadvantage

Top high schools in Illinois allow more transferable credits, placing our graduates at a disadvantage if they are applying to college or university especially if that school's admission is competitive.



Scheduling conflicts

Students are unable to fit specialized electives in the standard 6 - period schedule and so they are essentially barred from catching up or getting ahead via flexible external electives



Classroom seats

If classroom seats are all taken it forces the student to re -think the class they want to enter as well as affecting what he or she wants to learn.

Solution #1 - Credit Expansion

Replace the credit cap of 2.0 with a tiered credit expansion policy

Increase the cap

Raise the total allowable credit limit from 2.0 credits to 5.0 credits

Triple Track Approval

Track A: Acceleration - seeking advance work

Track B: Remediation - staying on track for graduation

Track C: Exploration - for the indecisive

Establishing programs that are credible

Establish online programs that are creditable and easy to access to students

Pre - approval work

Maintaining control over what credits to allow students to take, a one time guidance counselor sign off would be required, and they determine if its the best option for their academic plan

Solution #2 - Credit Exception

This proposition would allow exceptions to the credit cap - if met then the cap would be ignored

Online course is not available in school course catalog
After the 2.0 credit cap is reached if a student is wanting to take a class that is not offered by JTHS they are able to take it online

Scheduling conflicts
The class can be taken in JTHS but the student is not able to take it in the period the class is offered in.

Exceptions

Academic Plan requires more classes than he/she is already taken
The student field of interest after graduation requires certain classes that JT does not require for graduation.

Remediation
A student needs more classes to graduate on time or due to a failed class he took in the previous school year.

The outcome: Projected district & student benefits

The implantation of this plan would signify the shift establishing a more modern, flexible academic ecosystem that has measurable positive outcomes

Enhanced college readiness:

Graduates will be more prepared and ready for what it is to come if they seek higher education. Their academic transcripts featuring verified, higher level credits can be very favorable by university admissions.

Reduces scheduling conflicts:

Shift on this matter allows students that want to take a certain class but the class is full, another opportunity to take their wanted course.

Improved graduation rates:

credit options such as this one allows students to be encouraged on finishing high school if they are at risk of failing or if they simply want to graduate earlier.

Zero additional cost to the district

the tuition for alternative credit acceleration or remediation from external online accredited programs are funded by the families of the student, the change of the policy will not affect the district's budget.

Online programs

All mentioned programs have different prices and range from College prep, Honors, and AP

Consideration for additional resources for students

01 Excel High School

02 Silicon Valley High school (SVHS)

03 Sterling Academy

04 Apex learning

The mentioned online programs hold accreditation from Cognia to ensure rigor accreditation standards as well as to ensure recognition by colleges and universities, adding on they also have courses that are NCAA approved.

Thank you