

Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and Parent Involvement

5409 Academic Credits and Graduation

A. Graduation Requirements

A student must successfully complete all graduation requirements to earn a high school diploma. The Superintendent will ensure that the District's required credits and graduation criteria are consistent with state law and annually published in applicable student handbooks.

Twenty-Seven (27) credits must be earned. A half-credit is earned by the successful completion of one term of a class.

However, a student with an overall 3.0 average and having fulfilled all other requirements may, upon written request by his/her parents or guardians, and approval of the high school principal and Superintendent, be graduated from Chelsea High School after the winter term of the senior year.

Unless approved for "Dual Enrollment" credit, college credits are generally not acceptable toward a high school diploma.

Students may not repeat for additional credit a class they have previously passed without special approval unless indicated in the course description.

Students who meet all current conditions may qualify for "Dual Enrollment" credit for college-level work. This always requires approval by the principal prior to enrollment in the class.

If a student has successfully completed the Michigan Merit Curriculum set forth by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), the Superintendent may waive up to two (2) additional Chelsea High School Credits towards graduation based upon student experience and/or circumstance.

A. Personal Curriculum

In some cases, it may be appropriate to modify the Michigan Merit Curriculum for a student. Modifications may only be made in accordance with state law. The Parent of a student who has completed grade 9 or a student who has reached age 18 may request a personal curriculum. A Parent of a student with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act may request a personal curriculum before the student has completed grade 9.

A teacher or school counselor may request that the District consider providing a student with a personal curriculum. If requested by a teacher, the teacher must currently teach or have expertise in a subject area proposed to be modified by

the personal curriculum or the building principal must determine that the teacher has qualifications relevant to developing a personal curriculum.

In all cases, a student's personal curriculum must be developed in accordance with state law.

The District will annually notify Parents of their ability to request a personal curriculum.

B. Earning Credit

The District will grant credit to a student who successfully completes a course. Successful completion means that the student has met content expectations of the state- or District-approved subject area content standards for the course by obtaining a D- or higher grade in the course based, in part, on at least 1 state- or District-approved assessment.

Alternatively, the District will grant equivalent credit for a required Michigan Merit Curriculum course if the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by MDE or by the District, on a state- or District-approved assessment (i.e., "testing out").

The District will grant equivalent credit for a course if the student demonstrates a reasonable level of mastery by achieving a C+ or better on the final examination for the course or, if there is no final examination, by demonstrating subject area content knowledge by obtaining a C+ or better on an alternative assessment, such as a portfolio, performance, paper, project, presentation, or other established means. A student who earns credit in a course by "testing out" will not earn a grade in the course, and the credit will not be considered for determining grade point average or any honors earned based on grade point average.

The District will grant a student credit toward a diploma or alternative certificate if the student successfully completes, before entering high school, a state-mandated curriculum requirement by demonstrating proficiency on the content expectations for that curriculum requirement, either through successfully completing the course or by testing out.

Once a student earns credit in a course, either by successfully completing the course or by testing out, the student may not earn additional credit for the course or for a lower level course in the same subject.

The Board will recognize credits earned at other public schools and at accredited nonpublic schools. For students transferring from a home school program, the Superintendent or designee will assess whether the home school credit reflects proficiency in state and District content expectations for each course for which the student seeks to transfer credit. If the Superintendent or designee determines that the student is proficient in the subject area content, the District will award transfer credit.

Legal authority: MCL 380.1278a, 380.1278b, 380.1279b

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