

## **Online Courses/Distance Learning**

### **Online Courses**

The Granby Board of Education is committed to providing standards-based educational programming using a traditional classroom setting as the primary mode of instruction. However, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §10-221a, the Board sanctions the receipt of online course credit to be used toward high school graduation requirements, in accordance with this policy.

Only students in Grades 10-12 are eligible to receive credit toward high school graduation by taking online courses. Students who have been pre-approved shall receive such credit upon completing the online course and obtaining a passing grade.

### **Pre-approval of Courses**

To receive credit for online courses to be used toward high school graduation requirements, students must, prior to registering for the course, receive approval from the high school principal or his/her designee. The decision of the principal or his/her designee with regard to online course credit approval is final. Pre-approval for online course credit may be granted if the requirements set forth below are met.

### **Requirements for Online Coursework**

1. The course is not offered at the District's High School;
2. The High School does offer the course, but the student is unable to take it due to an unavoidable conflict or because the class is full;
3. The course will serve as a supplement to extended homebound instruction;
4. A student has failed a course and wishes to recover credits in that course area;
5. The student's PPT or Section 504 Team has determined it to be an appropriate means of instruction;
6. The workload required by the online course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting;
7. The content of the online course is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate;
8. The courses are:
  - a. taught by teachers who are certified in Connecticut or another state and have received training on teaching in an online environment, or
  - b. offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or regionally accredited.
9. The principal and his/her designee has determined, in his or her professional judgment, that, given the student's academic and disciplinary history, the student is appropriately suited to engage in online coursework.

Any expense incurred for taking an online course identified by the student and/or parent shall be the responsibility of the student and shall not be the responsibility of the Board of Education, except if the course is run by Virtual High School Collaborative.

## **Online Courses/Distance Learning (Cont'd)**

### **Distance Learning**

The District will not use Distance Learning as the sole medium for instruction in any required subject area for students in Grades PK-12, except in sudden emergency closures. Distance Learning is part of the Granby Public Schools' educational offerings to increase accessibility to learning opportunities and flexibility in the delivery of instruction while school is closed for an emergency. High School students may earn credits for graduation by participating successfully in distance learning during this time. Determination of successful participation will be made by the teacher taking into account work performed by the student prior to the emergency closure.

### Legal References

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a.

APPROVED:

## **Administrative Regulations** **6172.6 (a)**

### **The Virtual High School Collaborative**

Granby is participating in online courses sponsored by the Virtual High School Collaborative. This is a program that offers 120 full semester courses in the Arts, Interdisciplinary Study, Language Arts, Life Skills, Math, Science, Social Science, and Technical Skills. Core courses are NCAA accredited. School counselors will inform students of the application process. This is a rigorous program and each course has grade and prerequisites that must be met. Please refer to their web site for specifics: <http://www.VHSlearning.org>.

- VHS is for the exceptional learner who has demonstrated a strong work ethic, and has good time management skills.
- VHS may be taken as a sixth course.
- Only students in grade 10 – 12 can apply for the fall courses. Freshman may apply to take a 2nd semester VHS course.
- Courses currently offered at GMHS may not be taken as VHS courses (unless enrollment is oversubscribed).
- There must be strong parental support.
- Once all applications are in, the school counselors in conjunction with content area specialists will make the selections.\
- Students may indicate a desire to take a 1st or 2nd semester VHS course during course registration in February and March.