

## Instruction

### High School Credit for Students in Grade 7 or 8<sup>1</sup>

The Superintendent or designee may investigate, coordinate, and implement a program for students in grades 7 and 8 to enroll in a course required for a high school diploma.

*[The next two paragraphs are only for unit and high school districts; the final paragraph is only for elementary districts.]*

If a program is available, students in grades 7 and 8 may enroll in a course required for a high school diploma when the course is offered by the high school that the elementary student would attend and either one of the following is satisfied: (1) the student participates in the course at the high school and the elementary student's enrollment in the course would not prevent a high school student from being able to enroll, or (2) the student participates in the course where the student attends school as long as the student passes the course and the end-of-course examination given at the high school granting the credit for the same course, demonstrating proficiency at the high school level, or (3) the course is taught by a teacher who holds a professional educator license with an endorsement for the grade level and content area of the course.<sup>2</sup>

A student who successfully completes a course required for a high school diploma while in grades 7 and 8 shall receive academic credit for the course.<sup>3</sup> That academic credit shall satisfy the requirements of Section 27-22 of the School Code 105 ILCS 5/27-615 for purposes of receiving a high school diploma, unless evidence about the course's rigor and content show that the course did not address the relevant Illinois learning standard at the level appropriate for the high school grade during which the course is usually taken.<sup>4</sup> The student's grade in the course shall also be included in the student's grade point average.<sup>5</sup>

*[Elementary school districts only]*

If a program is available, students in grades 7 and 8 may enroll in a course required for a high school diploma. Students in grades 7 and 8 who successfully complete a course required for a high school

---

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

<sup>1</sup> While State law controls this policy's content, districts are not required to implement it. The board of any district that maintains any grades 9-12 may adopt a policy for students enrolled in grade 7 or 8 to enroll in a course required for high school graduation. 105 ILCS 5/27-~~22-10615~~(a), amended by P.A. 104-267, eff. 1-1-26, and renumbered by P.A. 104-391; 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.440(c)(3). The first sentence recognizes that this policy's implementation requires cooperation between school districts, superintendents, building principals, and other administrators.

<sup>2</sup> A high school board may choose the following alternative if it believes condition (2) would be difficult to manage because its students come from multiple districts having been taught by multiple non-district teachers:

If a program is available, students in grades 7 and 8 may enroll in a course required for a high school diploma when the course is offered by the high school that the elementary student would attend when the student participates in the course at the high school and the elementary student's enrollment in the course would not prevent a high school student from being able to enroll.

<sup>3</sup> 105 ILCS 5/27-~~22-10615~~(c), amended and renumbered by P.A. 104-391.

<sup>4</sup> Id. ~~at (c).~~

<sup>5</sup> Id. at (d), renumbered by P.A. 104-391.

diploma will receive academic credit if permitted by, and in accordance with, the policy of the district where the elementary student will attend high school.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-22.43 and 5/27-~~61522-10~~.  
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.460.

CROSS REF.: [6:135 \(Accelerated Placement Program\)](#), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:310 (High School Credit for Non-District Experiences; Course Substitutions; Re-Entering Students), 6:320 (High School Credit for Proficiency)

DRAFT