

See also IHBH, IHCD, IKF, IKFA, and IMBA

ALTERNATIVE CREDIT OPTIONS

Credit may be earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction offered by the District schools. Awarding of credits to be applied toward high school graduation will be determined by the high school principal or designee, and will be granted only if the request fulfills the following:

- The request is submitted with a plan to achieve competency that meets or exceeds the rigorous academic standards required by the school for students enrolled in a credit course offered by the school.
- The plan includes clear expectations for performance.
- The plan includes clearly defined methods and expectations for assessment.
- Verification of the plan's merit can be evaluated in a timely fashion and does not cause unnecessary burden of the resources of the administration.

Students earning credit via alternative methods will participate in all assessments required by the statewide education improvement and assessment program.

The Board directs the Superintendent to implement the following regulations:

- Definitions of allowable alternative learning opportunities
- Reasonable limits on the number of approved alternative courses that can be administered each school year – per student
- The number of alternative credits each student may use toward graduation requirements
- Application and approval process
- Criteria for determining which requests satisfy a particular subject area requirement
- Identification of person(s) responsible for approval, supervision, and monitoring progress
- Requirements that alternative opportunities meet the same rigorous academic outcomes as traditional classroom delivery
- Assurance of student safety including physical and technological
- Assurance of equal access for all students
- Assurance that approved alternative learning opportunities are consistent with all policies of the Board of Education
- The procedure will be made available to the public.

It is the policy of the Board that alternative methods for the awarding of credit may include:

- Interdisciplinary credit
- Satisfactory completion of course requirements at another public school district, an approved private school or a home-schooling experience
- Transfer of credits earned by students before enrolling in the district, such as students moving into Nashua from another school district
- Extended learning opportunities under the provisions of Policy IHBH
- Online/virtual learning opportunities under the provisions of Policy IMBA
- College Credit under the provisions of IMBC-R
- Dual Credit under the provisions of IMBC-R
- Early Graduation under the provisions of IKFA
- Middle school acceleration to the extent that the course work exceeds the requirements for seventh or eighth grade, meets the related high school course standards and the student achieves satisfactory standards of performance.

If a student demonstrates understanding of course competencies on a placement pre-test or portfolio developed by the School District for a particular course, the student will receive credit and/or shall be allowed to take a more advanced level of the subject or an elective.

Funding

Unless otherwise recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board, under ordinary circumstances students or their parents/guardians are responsible for all related expenses including tuition and textbooks.

Legal Reference:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(a)(6, 12, 14), Policy Development

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.26, Kindergarten - Grade 8 School Curriculum

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.27(c), High School Curriculum, Credits, Graduation Requirements, and Co-curricular Program

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.27(d), High School Curriculum, Credits, Graduation Requirements, and Co-curricular Program

Board Approved: 02/11/2008

R/Board Approved: 06/27/2012

R/Board Approved: 04/13/2015

[Replaces POPPS 2611]