

April 25, 2024

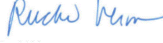
AUTHORIZE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR POLICY ON GRANTING CREDIT TOWARDS GRADUATION FOR COURSES TAKEN OUTSIDE OF THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS DAY PROGRAM

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board authorize the commencement of the Public Comment Period from April 26, 2024 to May 28, 2024 for the Policy described in the disposition table below. Pursuant to Board Rule 2-6(c), the Board must authorize the commencement of the Public Comment Period.

Current Policy Section/ Current Policy Title	New Policy Section/ New Policy Title	Description of Revision/Disposition
605.4 Granting Credit Towards Graduation for Courses Taken Outside of the Chicago Public Schools Day Program	N/A	Amend Policy 605.4 This policy was updated to align with current district practices. The update removes correspondence courses, which are no longer utilized by the district, and provides clearer definitions and processes around dual credit/dual enrollment.

Approved as to Legal Form: 

DocuSigned by:

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Ruchi Verma
General Counsel

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

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Pedro Martinez
Chief Executive Officer

AMEND POLICY ON GRANTING CREDIT TOWARDS GRADUATION FOR COURSES TAKEN OUTSIDE OF THE CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS DAY PROGRAM

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Chicago Board of Education (“Board”) amend Board Report 21-0825-PO1 Granting Credit Toward Graduation For Courses Taken Outside of the Chicago Public Schools Day Program. The policy was amended to ensure the language aligns with current district practices and is applied equitably across all stakeholders.

Policy Text:

I. Definitions

The following definitions apply to this policy:

Regionally Accredited: As defined by Ill. Admin. Code titl. 23 § 25.10.

Dual Enrollment: A college course taken by a junior or senior high school student for credit at the high school level, with appropriate principal approval as outlined in Section II. A dual enrollment course is taught by a college staff member at a college facility. Acceptance of dual enrollment credit at the college level is dependent on the college/university.

Dual Credit: A college course taken by a junior or senior high school student for credit at both the college and high school level. A dual credit course is taught by a Chicago City College-qualified Chicago Public School (CPS) teacher at a CPS facility.

Early College University Partners: College and/or University institutions that have been approved by the Office of College and Career Success as ECCC institutions and have an active data sharing agreement with CPS.

High School Credits: Academic units achieved through courses completed at the secondary education level, usually awarded in intervals of 0.5 or 1.0 per course taken.

College Credit: Academic units earned through courses completed at a postsecondary institution, usually awarded in intervals of 1.0-5.0 per course taken.

I. Correspondence Courses

~~A student enrolled in a correspondence course may receive high school credit for work successfully completed, provided that all of the following conditions are met:~~

~~1. The course is given by an institution: I) accredited by one of the seven regional accrediting associations or II) approved by the district’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or their designee. The seven regional associations are:~~

- ~~A. New England Association of Schools and Colleges~~
- ~~B. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools~~
- ~~C. Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges~~
- ~~D. Middle States Commission on Higher Education~~
- ~~E. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities~~
- ~~F. Higher Learning Commission~~

~~G. WASC Senior College and University Commission~~

- ~~2. The student is in the ninth grade through twelfth grade;~~
- ~~3. The principal has given written approval in advance to the student to take the specified class; and~~
- ~~4. The student assumes responsibility for all fees for the course, where applicable. Students/guardians should explore free and paid options for correspondence courses with a HS Counselor.~~

~~A maximum of three (3) high school credits may be counted toward the requirements for a student's high school graduation.~~

~~Home schooled students who enter the Chicago Public Schools may receive more than three (3) high school credits earned through an accredited correspondence institution toward the student's graduation requirements. In this case, determination of possible high school credit will be within the authority of the high school principal.~~

II. University Courses-Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Courses

A student who successfully completes dual enrollment/dual credit courses at any regionally accredited two or four year college or university may receive high school credit, provided that all of the following conditions are met:

1. The class is approved in advance by the principal; and
2. The student assumes responsibility for all fees where applicable. Students/guardians should explore free and paid options for college/university college courses with a HS Counselor.

Given these conditions, credit for any ~~college or university course~~ dual enrollment or dual credit courses from the District's Early College University partners (City College of Chicago, Chicago State University, DeVry University, Illinois Tech, Loyola University, National Louis University, Northeastern Illinois University, University of Chicago, University of Illinois Chicago) may be counted toward the academic requirements for the student's high school graduation. This includes free courses taken through the district's Dual Credit and Dual Enrollment Programs. Credit issued pursuant to this policy through a college or university not affiliated with a District Early College partner is in addition to the high school graduation requirements, and must not replace the content credit requirements pursuant to the Board's Graduation Policy.

A maximum of three (3) high school credits may be counted toward the requirements for a student's high school graduation, unless the school has a local policy that defines an alternate maximum credit limit. In the event that the school would like to adopt a limit that differs from the standard 3.0 credit limit, the local policy must be shared with all students and parents/guardians at the start of every school year and the limit must be fair and equitable.

III. Alternative Courses Offered by the Chicago Public Schools in Afternoon, Evening, or on Weekends.

For Chicago Public Schools where afternoon, evening, or Saturday courses are offered and meet the same standards as the day courses, the amount of awarded credit shall be equivalent to the amount of awarded credit for courses successfully completed during the day school program.

The CEO or their designee will establish an annual assessment that ensures the equitable distribution of course offerings and program locations for all alternative courses offered by CPS.

IV. Student Appeal Process

~~Principals must approve credit in advance of the student's enrollment.~~ Students must obtain principal approval before enrolling in any correspondence, college/university, or other alternative course. If the principal does not approve the credit, the student has the right to appeal the principal's decision to the school's Network Chief Officer. The Network Chief Officer is the final arbiter of whether or not the course will be credited toward graduation.