

ALTERNATIVE CREDIT OPTIONS

The Hollis Brookline Cooperative School Board recognizes that alternative credit options are important to address the diverse instructional needs of all students. The Board's intent is to improve student achievement by allowing students to engage in educational experiences that allow for differential instruction and/or increased rigor outside of the high school classroom.

Approved alternative credit options are consistent with all policies of the Board.

Alternative credit options may receive credit to be applied toward high school graduation. Credit and the numerical value will be pre-determined by the high school principal or their designee. The granting of credit may be based upon the following criteria: the course, the program, the activity in which the student wishes to participate, seat time, the level of instructional rigor, and/or the details of the option.

Students must complete an Alternative Enrollment Form to receive credit or recognition in any form prior to participation in the alternative option. The written approval of the principal or their designee is also required before participating in an alternative credit option.

Students taking approved alternative credit options must be enrolled in the district. Administration may grant approval for outside of school learning based on special circumstances.

The Alternative Enrollment Form request should include 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 shall include clear expectations for performance.

The plan shall include clearly defined methods and expectations for assessment.

It is the responsibility of the student to furnish this information with the application. Verification of the plan's merit can be evaluated in a timely fashion and should not cause unnecessary burden on the resources of the administration.

Appeals can be brought to an Academic Review Committee as referenced in the student handbook.

Alternative credit options may be taken in the summer under the same conditions as during the school year.

Students who are permitted to take alternative credit options during the school day may be assigned a teacher to monitor student progress. This provision will reflect special circumstances, and require supporting documentation and principal (or their designee) pre-approval.

The Board will support educational options for atypical students for whom regular classrooms are not practical or effective. Students earning credit via alternative methods will participate in all assessments required by the statewide education improvement and assessment program.

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

- Competency testing in lieu of enrollment
- 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 New Hampshire from another state or country
- Extended learning opportunities under the provisions of Policy [IHBH](#)
- Online/internet-based opportunities under the provisions of Policy [IMBA](#)
- College Credit

If a student demonstrates knowledge and abilities on a placement pre-test developed by the school district for a particular course, the student shall not receive credit for the course, but 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. The District may pay the fee for expelled students who are permitted to take courses in alternative settings. If paid by the district and the course is not completed, the student must reimburse the district for the expenses.

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 Cocurricular Program

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

RSA 193-A, Home Education

RSA 193-E:3-f, Approval of Courses and Programs

N.H. Dept. of Education Administrative Rules:

Ed 306.04(a)(13), Alternative Means of Earning Credit

Ed 306.14(a)(14), Alternative Means Of Demonstrating Achievement Of Graduation Competencies

Ed 306.21, Alternative Programs

Ed 306.26(f), Credit for 7th & 8th Grade Course Work

Ed 306.27(ad), Early Graduation

Ed 315, Home Education Programs

1st Reading: August 8, 2007
Adopted: May 21, 2008
Amended/Re-adopted: February 15, 2012
Amended: May 21, 2014
Amended/1st Reading: October 16, 2019
Amended/2nd Reading: November 13, 2019
Amended/3rd Reading: December 11, 2019
Adopted: December 11, 2019
1st Reading: June 15, 2022

2nd Reading: July 20, 2022 (as amended)

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