

Descriptor Term:
CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT AND
OTHER CURRICULUM EXPANSIONS

Descriptor Code:
3.1010

Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -47, -81; 115D-1.1, -5(B), -20(4); 16 NCAC 6D.0503; 23 NCAC 2C.0305; State Board of Education policy HSP-F-016; HSP-L-004; HSP-M-001; HSP-N-004; HSP-T-000

Cross References: 3.3000 Curriculum Development

In support of board policy 3.3000, Curriculum Development, and the board's encouragement of expanded curriculum development, the following board requirements are adopted for students enrolled in the school system who also wish to enroll in classes taught by a college, university, community college or other approved entity, or to take distance learning, on-line, correspondence or independent study courses.

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The superintendent shall develop procedures and requirements for awarding high school credit toward graduation for such courses. Credit towards graduation shall be granted only for courses that are consistent with policies and standards of the school system and State Board requirements, including the requirements of State Board policy HSP-M-001, "Course for Credit."
2. The course must be approved in advance by the principal. Prior to granting approval, the principal shall determine whether the course being taken will earn credit toward graduation in accordance with the procedures and requirements developed by the superintendent.
3. The parent of the student must give permission for the student to take the course, and the student must complete any forms required by the school system.
4. A current member of the high school personnel must supervise a student enrolled in an online, dual enrollment course or in independent study work. The level of supervision will vary depending on the option, from coordinating registration to providing instructional support.
5. Each course provider must be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/Central Association of Colleges (SACS-CASI) or its regional equivalent. Courses from North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) and any software meeting NCVPS approval will also be accepted.
6. Enrollment of a student in a course is the responsibility of the student and his/her parent. Except as provided elsewhere in this policy, all special fees and charges and any special transportation needs are the responsibility of the student and parent or guardian.
7. To receive credit towards high school graduation, the school from which the course is offered must provide such essential information as is generally included in official transcripts of school records. This information includes:

- a. description of content and subject matter covered;
 - b. the number of clock hours of instruction in the course;
 - c. the student's achievement or performance level in the course; and
 - d. a syllabus from the course instructor that includes course goals, objectives, course activities, and grade requirements.
8. In the case of independent study credit, the designated teacher must provide the above-stated information and the student's numerical/letter grade in the course.
 9. The student also must meet any other requirements established by the superintendent.
 10. Credit shall not be awarded for school bus driving or for office, teacher or laboratory assistance.

B. NORTH CAROLINA VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL; LEARN AND EARN ONLINE COURSES

The superintendent shall develop additional procedures and requirements consistent with this policy for students enrolling in the North Carolina Virtual Public School or in Learn and Earn On-Line Courses available through the UNC system and/or community colleges. To the extent these courses are made available, they shall be provided at no cost to the student or his/her family. Students may be expected to pay for the expenses of attending summer school online courses, if offered to defray the costs of staffing and facilities.

C. LEARN AND EARN EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM

The board supports the Learn and Earn Early College High School Initiative, which is intended to create rigorous and relevant high school options that provide students with the opportunity and assistance to earn an associate degree or two years of transferable college credit by the conclusion of their last year in high school. The superintendent shall ensure that the program targets high school students who are at risk of dropping out of school before attaining a high school diploma or who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction, or other student populations targeted by the State Board for such programs.

Students attending the Learn and Earn Early College Program do not pay tuition, fees, transportation or other fees incidental to the program, except as may be required of other students attending public schools in the system.

The superintendent shall develop procedures consistent with this policy and the terms of the agreement governing operation of the program. Such procedures shall include eligibility requirements and requirements for earning high school course credits.

D. OTHER CONCURRENT (OR DUAL) ENROLLMENT IN POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

In addition to the general requirements in Section A of this policy, students not participating in an early college program may enroll concurrently in appropriate courses in a post-secondary institution of higher education (college, university or community college) and the local high school under these conditions:

1. Student Eligibility
 - a. Students must be at least 16 years of age at the time of enrollment.
 - b. Students must be recommended by their high school principal and, for students enrolled in a community college, approved by the president of the college.
 - c. Students must meet the same prerequisite and course admission requirements as adult students.
 - d. Students may enroll only in courses that are not available at the student's school of attendance or offered at another school within the school system.
 - e. The principal must certify that the student will be enrolled in high school courses for one-half of the school day and is making appropriate progress toward graduation. For courses offered in the summer, students must have been enrolled in high school courses for one-half of their school day during the preceding year and must be making appropriate progress towards graduation. For purposes of this policy, adequate progress towards graduation means that the student has passed the minimum number of credits required each year to meet graduation requirements. Students must also submit a request to the superintendent or designee for a Shortened Instructional Day.

2. Course Credit
 - a. College credit will be awarded to high school students upon successful completion of each course in accordance with the policies and requirements of the college.
 - b. High school credit will be awarded in accordance with the procedures and requirements developed by the superintendent.

3. Expenses
 - a. Students are responsible for payment of activity, tuition (if applicable), fees, transportation and other costs incidental to their enrollment in a post-secondary institution. High school students are exempt from paying tuition for courses (except continuing education courses) taken at a community college. Textbooks, materials, fees and supply costs for courses taken at a community college are the responsibility of the student.
 - b. Students participating in the Early College Program may participate in other concurrent enrollment programs, subject to the requirements above and the approval of the principal.

E. COURSES OFFERED THROUGH COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY COLLEGE (HUSKINS BILL PROGRAM COURSES)

The superintendent is authorized to enter annually into a cooperative agreement with the

local community college to allow high school students to enroll in college-level courses as part of their regular high school course of study. Such agreements shall comply with the requirements of the State Board of Education and the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges.

1. Student Eligibility

- a. To participate, a student must be in Grades 9-12 and be recommended for enrollment by the principal of the high school.
- b. Students must meet the same prerequisite and course admission requirements as adult college students.

2. Course Credit

- a. The award of college credit to high school students upon successful completion of each course will be in accordance with the policies and requirements of the local community college.
- b. High school credit will be awarded in accordance with the procedures and requirements developed by the superintendent.
- c. Credits received for Huskins Program courses will be counted in the grade point average at the high school and will be included in class rank calculations.

3. Expenses

High school students are exempt from paying tuition for Huskins Program courses taken through the local community college. Textbooks, materials, fees and supply costs will be provided by the school system.

4. Course Eligibility

- a. The superintendent shall authorize appropriate staff to work with the local community college to determine Huskins Program course offerings.
- b. Students may enroll only in courses that are not otherwise available in any system high school. Huskins Program courses may not duplicate or substitute for any high school courses currently offered in the system.
- c. Developmental courses shall not be offered.

5. Students with Special Needs

The school system and the local community college will collaboratively determine the accommodations to be provided by each entity to a student with special needs.

F. COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT OF INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED AND MATURE STUDENTS UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE

Intellectually gifted students under the age of 16 may enroll in a community college under the following conditions:

1. Student Eligibility

- a. The student must be identified as intellectually gifted and having the maturity to justify admission to the community college;
- b. The student must receive written recommendation and approval from the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction;
- c. The student must meet course prerequisites and state-designated criteria for aptitude and achievement test scores; and
- d. The community college president must approve the student's enrollment.

2. Expenses

Students enrolled under this section shall pay required tuition and fees as well as transportation and any other costs incidental to their enrollment.

3. Credit

Credits awarded will not be counted toward the required credits for high school graduation as defined by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

4. Other

- a. Students are not eligible to enroll in occupational extension courses.
- b. When on the community college campus, students under the age of 15 must be accompanied at all times by a parent or another adult consented to and designated by the parent in writing.

The superintendent shall develop procedures consistent with this policy and policies of the State Board. Such procedures shall include any additional eligibility requirements and requirements for earning course credits.