

Board of Education Policy 3.7500
Administrative Procedure

Grade Placement and Academic Credit for Home Schooled Children
Or Students from Private Schools not Accredited

Chapter 115C, Article 39 amended June 1988

Allows parents or legal guardians to form a private school for the purpose of teaching their children at home. Such home schools must meet specific requirements established by the Governor's Office, Division of Non-Public Education, including operating for a full nine-month calendar, maintenance of attendance records, and annual standardized testing. Home schools are strongly encouraged, although not mandated to offer daily instruction of at least similar quality, scope, and duration as the local conventional schools. Approved home schools satisfy the state's compulsory attendance requirements. Students who meet the state requirements for graduation may receive a high school diploma from the Division of Non-Public Education.

Chapter 115C-288 amended June 1996

The principal shall have authority to grade and classify pupils except a principal shall not require additional testing of a student entering a public school from a school governed under Article 39 of this chapter if test scores from a nationally standardized test or nationally standardized equivalent measure that are adequate to determine the appropriate placement of the child are available.

The only accrediting agencies that will be recognized by Catawba County Schools are those recognized by the Division of Non-Public Education:

NC Christian School Association
Southern Association of Independent Schools
National Council for Private School Accreditation
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

High School Placement

Students from home schools cannot be held to a different standard than students from private or other non-accredited schools.

High school placement for home schooled students seeking admission to any of the Catawba County high schools will be determined by various means including but not limited to the following:

Achievement test scores
End of Course test scores
Criterion Reference test scores
Final examinations administered in content areas
Portfolio assessment
Teacher interviews

Home schools are required to administer a nationally normed achievement test annually. Examples of the tests available to parents are as follows:

CAT
IOWA
Metropolitan
Woodcock Johnson
Stanford
WRAT

Peabody
Otis Lennon

Credits toward promotion or graduation for each home-school or non-accredited private school course will be recorded on the student's transcript. A grade of P (passing) and F (failing) will be recorded for each of these courses, with no curriculum level or course weight considered. Class rank for students transferring from a home school or non-accredited private school will be calculated solely on the basis of courses earned in the Catawba County School System and will not reflect courses completed in the transferring program. Students may receive credit for state mandated EOC courses by scoring proficiency on the specific EOC test. Students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a weighted scale will be designated an Honor Graduate.

The principal shall make the final decision regarding credit for any course or grade level completed based on the student's transcript.

Enrollment Period

A student enrolling during the semester is responsible for presenting current grades, attendance information, and hours accumulated to date.

A Catawba County diploma will be awarded to those students who

- Complete a minimum of one year involving two consecutive semesters in the same year in the Catawba County School System.
- Meet all graduation requirements specified by the Catawba County School Board and the North Carolina Board of Education.
- Take and pass all required testing for their graduating class including but not limited to the North Carolina Competency Test and the North Carolina Test of Computer Proficiency.

Requirements for Enrollment

Parents must provide a listing of the following information:

- Courses taken through home schooling or private school
- Immunization records
- Proof of residency in the school district in which the student is applying
- Birth certificate
- Total number of hours devoted to each course
- Evidence of records of attendance in the home school or private school
- Certification letter for State of NC verifying compliance with the law and naming the home school from which the student is transferring.

(For Reference)

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

3.4.0 Granting Credit

3.4.1 Schools granting credit based upon the traditional mode of class attendance, course completion, and passing marks shall adhere to a minimum requirement of 130 clock hours of instruction per unit of credit. For special education students the minimum instructional requirements for credit must conform to the requirements of the student's individual education plan.

3.4.9 Course credit from nonaccredited schools shall be accepted only when validated by examination or by scholastic performance.

It is the policy of Catawba County Schools not to discriminate against race, color, religion, sex, pregnancy (or students with children and/or who are married), or handicapped conditions in its educational activities or employment policies

Superintendent

November 4, 2003
Date

Program Director

November 4, 2003
Date