Equivalency Credit Opportunities

I. Experiential Education Opportunities
The district may grant credit, including high school graduation credit, for school planned or approved learning experiences which may be conducted away from the facilities owned, operated, or supervised by the district or conducted primarily by individuals not employed by the district. To grant credit for such experiences, a proposal for approval of credit must be submitted to the school principal or designee.

The proposal shall include the following elements:
(a) Name of program or planned learning experience;
(b) Length of time for which approval is desired;
(c) Objectives of the program or planned learning experience;
(d) Which one or more of the state learning goals and related essential academic learning requirements are part of the program or planned learning experience;
(e) Description of how credits shall be determined (completion of a district-defined course or satisfactory demonstration of proficiency/mastery in the related state learning standards in accord with WAC 180-51-050(1)) and WAC 180-51-051;
(f) Content outline of the program and/or major learning activities and instructional materials to be used;
(g) Description of how student performance will be assessed;
(h) Qualifications of instructional personnel;
(i) Plans for evaluation of program; and
(j) How and by whom the student will be supervised.

Approved experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following: School planned or approved learning experiences such as travel study, work study, private lessons, and education programs sponsored by governmental agencies.

II. Career and Technical Education Courses

Until September 1, 2021, the district will offer high school students with the opportunity to access at least one career and technical education course that is considered a statewide equivalency course as determined by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction under RCW 28A.700.070.

On or after September 1, 2021, any statewide equivalency course offered by the district or accessed at a skill center will be offered for academic credit.

The district may also adopt local course equivalencies for career and technical education courses that are not on the list of courses approved by the superintendent of public instruction under RCW 28A.700.070.

Each high school will adopt core academic course equivalencies for high school career and technical courses, provided that the career and technical course has been reviewed and approved for equivalency credit by a district team appointed by the superintendent or a designee.
Instruction

The district team will include a school administrator, the career and technical administrator, an instructor from the core academic subject area, an instructor from the appropriate career and technical course, a school counselor, and a representative from the curriculum department.

Career and technical courses approved for equivalency will be:
1. Aligned with the state’s essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations; and
2. Aligned with current industry standards, as evidenced in the curriculum frameworks. The local career and technical advisory committee will certify that courses meet industry standards.
3. Recorded on the student’s transcripts as the academic course the equivalence credit fulfills.

III. General Education Courses

Cross References: Policy 2170 Career and Technical Education
Policy 2410 High School Graduation Requirements

Legal References: Laws of 2019 ch. 180, High School Computer Science Courses-Availability-Competency Testing
RCW 28A.230.010 Course content requirements—Access to career and technical course equivalencies—Duties of school boards of directors—Waivers
RCW 28A.230.097 Career and technical high school course equivalencies.
WAC 180-50 Courses of Study and Equivalencies
WAC 180-51 High School Graduation Requirements
RCW 28A.230.120 High School Diplomas - Issuance- Option to receive final transcripts -Notice.

Management Resources: 2020 - December Issue
2019 - July Policy Issue
2018 - May Policy Issue
2013 - September Issue

Policy News, August 2006 Legislature Codifies Course Equivalency for Career and Technical Courses

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