

A New Emphasis on Learning

Shifting the focus from “seat time” to performance

Ohio’s Report & Plan for Credit Flexibility

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Ohio Core SB 311 Part J

...develop a statewide plan
...for students to earn units of
high school credit based on the
demonstration of subject area
competency, instead of or in
combination with completing
hours of classroom instruction...

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Why? Policy Intent

Flexibility to meet...

- Increased expectations for HS graduation (4 math w/Alg II and science w/lab) in response to globalization, technology, demographics
- Demand for 21st century skills, especially creative and innovative thinking (economic development)

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Credit Flexibility

Allows students to...

- Broaden scope of curricular options
- Increase the depth of study available
- Customize the time needed to complete a degree (shorter or longer)

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Students can...

- Show what they know and that they are ready to move on to higher order content; and/or
- Learn subject matter or earn course credit in ways not limited solely to seat time or a school building.

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How?

Students earn credit by...

- Completing coursework (with teacher-designed flexibility?); and/or
- Testing out or showing mastery of course content; and/or
- Pursuing an educational option such as senior project, distance learning, postsecondary coursework, internship, service learning or research based project; or
- Any combination of the above

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Alignment

Related Policies

- Performance Based Assessments
- Stackable Certificates
- Public-Private Collaborative Commission
Anytime Anywhere Learning
- Dual Credit Strategies
- Acceleration Policy
- Credit Recovery/Dropout Prevention & Intervention

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Carnegie Credit

120 hours = 1 high school credit

Introduced at the beginning of the 20th century, Carnegie units represent the hours of instruction or the number of hours a high school student is in class (seat time).

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Measurement Matters

So What?

- The value of seat time as an accurate measure of student learning is limited.
- Demonstrating knowledge ensures our system is designed for learning and focuses on intended results.
- Flexibility allows time and conditions for learning to be customized to meet student needs for success.

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Student Achievement

Benefits

- Access to more learning resources, especially real world experiences;
- Customization around individual student needs; and
- Use of multiple measures of learning, especially those in which students demonstrate what they know and can do.

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Policy Guidelines

Elements

- Local boards of education adopt local policy and annually communicate to parents/students
- Applies to any student capable of meeting the conditions and eligible to earn HS credit
- Credits earned through this alternative will be reflected on high school transcript like other course credit earned
- Flexible use of assessments including multidisciplinary teams; professional panels; performance-based assessments; end of course, placement or certification exams

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Elements

- Student and educators pre-identify and agree upon the learning outcomes and how these will be measured against the state standards
- Use regional networks to broker learning opportunities tied to economic development
- Revisit the policy as a working document

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Implementation

Milestones

- State Board of Education *Adopted*, March 2009
- ODE & OSBA, May 2009 *Leadership Institute*
- OSBA, September, webinar(s), draft language
- OSBA Conference, November 2009, resources
- Local boards policy adoption, December 2009 (suggested)
- **Local boards full implementation, September 2010**
- State Board review of policy implementation, 2011-12

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Next Steps

What you can do...

- Talk to key individuals in your district
- Review the research provided (**see checklist**)
- Use OCIS-IACP to build individual planning capacity
- Review your own data on current provisions (**see website**) and engage students/parents in dialogue and planning
- Consider the strengths of your district and community (e.g., business advisory, ESCs, foundations, Career Tech and Ed Tech)
- Begin to draft and vet policy language and procedures

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Thank You!

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