

## **Instruction**

### **Credit for Alternative Courses and Programs, and Course Substitutions**

*[For high school and unit districts]*

Sparta High School Students may earn a maximum of four (4) credits toward graduation through any combination of the following programs.

Correspondence Courses A student enrolled in a correspondence course may receive high school credit for work completed, provided:

1. The course is given by an institution accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools;
2. The student is a fourth or fifth year senior;
3. The student assumes responsibility for all fees; and
4. The Building Principal approves the course in advance.

### Distance Learning Courses, Including Virtual or Online Courses

A student enrolled in a distance learning course, including a virtual or online course, may receive high school credit for work completed, provided:

1. The course is offered by an institution approved by the Superintendent or designee;
2. The course is not offered at the student's high school;
3. The student assumes responsibility for all fees (including tuition and textbooks); and
4. The Building Principal approves the course in advance.

Students may be limited as to the number of distance learning courses that apply toward high school credit. Grades earned in approved distance learning courses count toward a student's grade point average, class rank, and eligibility for athletic and extra-curricular activities. The District may pay the fee for expelled students who are permitted to take virtual or online courses in alternative settings.

### Exchange Programs

An exchange student will be granted a diploma if he or she completes the criteria for graduation established by the State of Illinois and the School Board. The School Board may grant a certificate of attendance to exchange students.

District students will receive high school credit for foreign exchange courses that meet the criteria established in the curriculum and that are approved by the Building Principal. International study course work not meeting District requirements may be placed in the student's permanent record and recorded as an international study experience.

### Summer School and Independent Study

A student will receive high school credit for successfully completing: (1) any course given by an institution accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and (2) independent study in a curriculum area not offered by the District, provided the student obtains the consent of a supervising teacher as well as the Building Principal.

### College Courses

A student who successfully completes community college courses may receive high school credit, provided:

1. The student is a senior in good academic standing;
2. The course is not offered in the high school curriculum;
3. The course is approved in advance by the student's guidance counselor and the High School Principal; and
4. The student assumes responsibility for all fees.

A maximum of 6 units of credit may be counted toward the requirements for a student's high school graduation.

### Military Service

The School Board may accept military service experience as credit toward graduation, provided the student making the request has a recommendation from the U.S. Commission of Accreditation of Service Experiences. The student seeking credit shall supply any documents or transcripts necessary to support the request.

### Substitutions for Physical Education and Other Required Courses

A student in grades 9-12 may satisfy one or more high school courses (including physical education) or graduation requirements by successfully completing related vocational or technical education courses if:

1. The Building Principal approves the substitution and the vocational or technical education course is completely described in curriculum material along with its relationship to the required course; and
2. The student's parent(s)/guardian(s) request and approve the substitution in writing on forms provided by the District.

A student in grades 9-12, unless otherwise stated, may submit a written request to the Building Principal to be excused from physical education courses for the following reasons:

1. Participation in an interscholastic athletic program or marching band program; the student may take an extra course in lieu of physical education and be excused from physical education for the entire year regardless of the duration of the interscholastic sport or marching band program. The student may substitute a semester-long course for physical education regardless of the length of the sport or marching season. The student who does not take an academic course in place of physical education shall be reassigned to a physical education class when his or her sport or band season ends. The student is expected to attend school for the regularly scheduled school day.
2. Enrollment in Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) program sponsored by the District;
3. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for admission to an institution of higher learning (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade);
4. Enrollment in academic classes that are required for graduation from high school, provided that failure to take such classes will result in the pupil being unable to graduate (student must be in the 11th or 12th grade); or

5. If the student must use the time set aside for physical education to receive special education support and services, subject to the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Building Principals shall maintain records showing that they applied the stated criteria to the student's individual circumstances.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/2-3.44, 5/2-3.108, 5/2-3.115, 5/10-22.43a, 5/27-6, 5/27-22.3, and 5/27-22.05.

23 Ill.Admin.Code §§1.420(p), 1.440(j), and 4.450(c).

CROSS REF.: 6:180 (Extended Instructional Programs), 6:300 (Graduation Requirements), 6:320 (Credit for Proficiency), 7:260 (Exemption from Physical Activity)

Adopted: March 19, 2007