

ALTERNATIVE CREDIT OPTIONS

Credit may be earned through alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction offered by the Fall Mountain Regional High School. Awarding of credits and approval of course application to be applied toward high school graduation will be determined by the high school principal, and will be granted only if the request fulfills the following:

- The request is submitted with a plan to achieve competency that meets or exceeds the rigorous academic standards required by the school for students enrolled in a credit course offered by the school.
- The plan includes clear expectations for performance.
- The plan includes clearly defined methods and expectations for assessment.
- Verification of the plan's merit can be evaluated in a timely fashion and does not cause unnecessary burden of the resources of the administration.

The Board encourages increased educational options for hospitalized or homebound students, dropouts, suspended students or other atypical students for whom regular classrooms are not practical or effective. It is hoped that such offerings will serve as a motivator for students with different learning styles.

Students earning credit via alternative methods will participate in all assessments required by the statewide education improvement and assessment program.

The Board directs the Superintendent to establish regulations and procedures for implementing this policy that will include:

- Online courses, work internships, work experience, volunteer work, travel, or research are allowable alternative learning opportunities
- Twelve (12) school-wide, and four (4) per student are the number of approved alternative courses that can be administered each school year
- Each student may use four (4) alternative credits toward graduation requirements
- Applications are available in the Counseling Department
- The alternative learning opportunity must meet the competency of the course or be used as an elective in order to satisfy the requirements of a particular subject area
- The Career-to-Work Counselor is responsible for supervision and monitoring progress
- Alternative opportunities must meet the same rigorous academic outcomes as traditional classroom delivery

- Students will follow state and federal guidelines for physical and technological safety
- All high school students are eligible
- All approved alternative learning opportunities will be consistent with all policies of this board
- The procedure will be made available to the public district newsletters and website

It is the policy of the Board that alternative methods for the awarding of credit may include:

- Competency examination
- Extended learning opportunities under the provisions of Policy IHBH
- Alternative learning plans under the provisions of Policy IHBI
- College Credit/Dual Credit

Funding

Unless otherwise recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board, under ordinary circumstances students or their parents/guardians are responsible for all related expenses including tuition and textbooks. If paid by the district and the course is not completed, the student must reimburse the district for the expenses.

Middle School

If a course is offered at the Middle School level, a student may not substitute an online course. Classroom involvement and participation are vital to a middle school student's social, emotional and academic success. Exceptions are at the discretion of the principal.

Middle School Acceleration is allowed by first determining that the student is academically as well as socially/emotionally prepared to enroll in an alternative course offered in another setting, for example, at Fall Mountain Regional High School.

A proposal for credit to be earned in an alternative way must be pre-approved by school personnel and evaluated in a timely fashion in a plan to be determined by the high school principal or his/her designee. Alternative credit must match the school curriculum. Students must prove proficiency in the competencies used within the regular classroom.

Alternative credits, which are intended to be applied toward high school graduation requirements, are to be recognized by the high school principal only if the student is able to demonstrate course competencies that meet or exceed the rigorous academic standards for a course outlined in the Fall Mountain Regional School District's Program of Studies. The course design has to identify clear expectations for performance and methods and expectations for assessment. The certified staff in each department will assess the competencies under the authority of the principal.

A team consisting of a representative from the student's middle school and a representative from the high school shall meet to consider the request by the student and parent to participate in accelerated learning. Once permission is granted by the committee, the next step is for the student to complete the approved coursework. After completion, the student must then demonstrate knowledge and abilities on competency examination developed by the school district for a particular course. The student shall not receive credit for the course but shall be allowed to take a more advanced level of the subject or an elective.

Legal Reference:

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.04(a)(6, 12, 14), Policy Development
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.26, Kindergarten - Grade 8 School Curriculum
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.27(c), High School Curriculum, Credits, Graduation Requirements, and Co-curricular Program
NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed. 306.27(d), High School Curriculum, Credits, Graduation Requirements, and Co-curricular Program

FMRSB
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