

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Purpose

The Board encourages students to pursue Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) as a means of acquiring knowledge and skills through instruction or study that is outside the traditional classroom methodology. Extended Learning Opportunities may include, but are not limited to, independent study, private instruction, performing groups, internships, community service, apprenticeships, online courses/distance education, or other opportunities approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee, in conjunction with Board policies.

The purpose of Extended Learning Opportunities is to provide educational experiences that are meaningful and relevant, and that provide students with opportunities to explore and achieve at high levels. In order to maximize student achievement and meet diverse pathways for learning, this policy permits students to employ extended learning opportunities that are stimulating and intellectually challenging, and that enable students to fulfill or exceed the expectations set forth by State minimum standards and applicable Board policies.

Extended learning opportunities may be taken for credit or may be taken to supplement regular academic courses. Extended learning opportunities may also be used to fulfill prerequisite requirements for advanced classes. The granting of credit shall be based on a student's mastery of course competencies. Highly Qualified Teachers must authorize the granting of credit for learning accomplished through extended learning opportunities

Roles and Responsibilities

All programs of study must meet or exceed the proficiencies and skills identified by the New Hampshire State Board of Education, applicable rules and regulations of the Department of Education, and all applicable Board policies. All programs of study proposed through this program shall have specific instructional objectives aligned with the State minimum standards and District curriculum standards. All extended learning opportunities will comply with applicable laws and regulations, including child labor laws and regulations governing occupational safety.

Students wishing to pursue programs of study under these guidelines must first present their proposal to the school's extended learning opportunity coordinator(s) for approval. The name and contact information for the school's extended learning opportunity coordinator(s) will be found in the Student/Parent Handbook or by contacting the Principal's office or the Guidance Department. The designated extended learning opportunity coordinator will assist students in preparing the application form and other necessary paperwork.

DATE:

Adopted: September 15, 2008

Reviewed:

Revised:

Cancellation:

**EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
(Continued)**

The Principal will have primary responsibility and authority for ensuring the implementation of extended learning opportunities and all aspects of such programs. The Principal will determine who will be responsible for approving eligibility and such approval will include a consideration of the overall benefits, costs, advantages and disadvantages to both the student and the district.

The principal will review and determine credits that will be awarded for extended learning opportunities toward the attainment of a high school diploma. Parents/Guardians and/or students may appeal decisions rendered by the Principal within the provisions below (see Appeal Process).

Students approved for extended learning opportunity must have parental/guardian permission to participate in such a program. Such permission will be granted through an extended learning opportunity plan signed by the parent/legal guardian and returned to the district before beginning the program.

Extended Learning Opportunities Not Initiated by the District

All extended learning opportunities not initiated or designed by the District shall be the financial responsibility of the student or his/her parent/legal guardian. Students electing independent study, college coursework, internships, or other extended learning opportunities that are held off the high school campus will be responsible for their own transportation to and from the off-campus site. However, the District may provide transportation if feasible.

Students, who have a financial or transportation need that would prevent such participation, may request school assistance through their school Extended Learning Opportunity Coordinator. Such requests may be granted if District resources are available and at the discretion of the Superintendent. The Extended Learning Opportunity Coordinator will assist students in seeking alternative means of financial or transportation assistance if so needed.

Students approved for off-campus extended learning opportunities are responsible for their personal safety and well-being. Extended learning opportunities at off-campus sites will require a signed agreement among the school, student, parent/guardian and a designated agent of the third-party host. The agreement should specify the roles and responsibilities of each party.

Extended Learning Opportunities Initiated by the District

The Extended Learning Opportunity Coordinator has created procedures for approving, supervising, and evaluating off-campus extended learning opportunities initiated by the school district. The

DATE:

Adopted: September 15, 2008

Reviewed:

Revised:

Cancellation:

**EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
(Continued)**

Extended Learning Opportunity Coordinator will assess the safety of off-campus extended learning opportunities initiated by the district.

Application Evaluation Criteria

The Extended Learning Opportunities Coordinator will evaluate all applications. At a minimum, all applicants must meet the following criteria:

Provides for administration and supervision of the program
Provides that certified school personnel oversee and monitor the program

Requirement that each extended learning opportunity meets rigorous standards, including the minimum standards established by the State Board of Education and all other applicable District standards

Appeal Process

A student whose application has been denied may request a meeting with the Principal. The Principal will provide the student with rationale as to why the proposal was denied. Students may resubmit alternate proposals for consideration if such proposals are made within the timelines established by this policy. If the principal rejects the resubmitted proposal, the student may appeal to the Superintendent. All decisions made by the Superintendent shall be final.

Program Integrity

In order to insure the integrity of the learning experience approved under this program, the student will be required periodically or upon demand to provide evidence of progress and attendance. The Principal will be responsible for certifying course completion and the award of credits consistent with the District's policies on graduation.

If a student is unable to complete the extended learning opportunity for valid reasons, the Principal, or Principal's designee, or assigned Highly Qualified Teacher will evaluate the experience completed to date and make a determination for the award of partial credit or recommend an alternative experience.

If a student ceases to attend or is unable to complete the extended learning opportunity for insufficient reason (lack of effort, failure to follow through, indecision, etc.) the principal may determine that the student's transcript be adjusted to reflect the experience as a failure.

DATE:

Adopted: September 15, 2008

Reviewed:

Revised:

Cancellation:

**EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
(Continued)**

In order to certify completion of co-curricular programs and activities based upon specific instructional objectives aligned to the standards, the school will develop appropriate mechanisms to document student progress and program completion on student personnel records.

Students transferring from other schools who request acceptance of course credits awarded through similar extended learning opportunity programs shall have their transcripts evaluated by the Guidance Counselor and Principal.

DATE:

Adopted: September 15, 2008

Reviewed:

Revised:

Cancellation: