

Alternative Credit Options

In addition to regular classroom-based instruction, students may earn credit through the following means. Students may enroll in online courses, or summer school classes to obtain credit. Only courses offered by agencies and institutions recognized by the Board will be accepted.

The express approval of the Principal and guidance counselor shall be obtained before required courses are taken through outside sources.

ONLINE COURSES

High school students may also earn academic credit to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing online courses offered through agencies approved by the Board. Credit from an online course may be earned only in the following circumstances:

1. The course is not offered at the high school;
2. Although the course is offered at the high school, the student will not be able to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict that would keep the student from meeting graduation requirements;
3. The course will serve as a supplement to extend homebound instruction;
4. The student has been expelled from the regular school setting, but educational services are to be continued; or
5. The Principal, with agreement from the student's teachers and parents/guardians, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
6. Unless otherwise approved by the Principal/designee, students taking such courses must be enrolled in the District and take the courses during the regular school day at the school site.
7. Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, high school students who are beginning the virtual program and taking all courses virtually will enroll and graduate from the Mercer Central High School.

The District shall recognize only those online courses that meet the international standards for online teachers, courses, and programs that have been adopted by the Kentucky Department of Education.

As determined by school/council policy, students applying for permission to take an online course shall complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in an online learning environment. Online courses may be subject to review by the Superintendent/designee for conformance with Kentucky Academic Standards and District graduation requirements. In addition, the express approval of the Principal/designee shall be obtained before a student enrolls in an online course.

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ONLINE COURSES (CONTINUED)

Provided online courses are part of the student's regular school day coursework and within budgetary parameters, the tuition fee and other costs for an online course shall be borne by the District for students enrolled full-time, from funds that have been allocated to the school. The Superintendent shall determine, within the budget adopted by the Board, whether additional funding shall be granted, based on supporting data provided by the Principal. The Board shall pay the fee for expelled students who are permitted to take online courses in alternative settings.

Through its policies and/or supervision plan, the school shall be responsible for providing appropriate supervision and monitoring of students taking online courses.

COLLEGE CREDIT/DUAL CREDIT

To differentiate/accelerate the curriculum to meet the needs of students, the District shall recognize courses from postsecondary education institutions. Students will receive one (1) high school credit for every three (3) semester hours of college work. Grades will be calculated in non-weighted form for class rank and GPA and included in the student's transcript. Failure to complete the course shall be recorded according to school policy. Credit may be earned in accordance with the following requirements:

1. The student must present documentation supporting enrollment in the postsecondary institution;
2. The course is not offered at the high school;
3. The course is offered at the high school, but the student will not be able to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict;
4. The high school must receive an official record of the final grade before credit toward graduation will be recognized; and
5. Students taking such courses must be enrolled in the District.
6. The course taken at the postsecondary institution must be at a time which coincides with the time of the first or last block at the student's home school. Students may miss only one (1) block period per day. Exceptions to the first or last block requirement and the number of blocks missed per day can be made by the building Principal but only with prior approval.
7. All college courses taken will be listed on the student transcript at the high school level for dual credit purposes.
8. The building Principal may make exceptions to these requirements as extenuating circumstances arise: the exceptions shall be made only with prior approval from the Principal.

Students shall be responsible for all related costs and transportation.

DUAL-CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The District may offer the opportunity for students to earn dual-credits through the Kentucky Dual-Credit Scholarship Program and follows the guidelines outlined in the "*Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky Department of Education Dual Credit Policy for Kentucky Public and Participating Postsecondary Institutions and Secondary Schools*," located on the Kentucky Department of Education website.

Alternative Credit Options**SUMMER SCHOOL UNITS**

A maximum of three (3) units of credit earned at an accredited summer school may be applied toward graduation requirements. Students may earn the equivalent of one (1) credit unit in any given summer school session. All unit courses for credit shall meet the equivalent of one hundred forty (140) hours of classroom instruction.

REFERENCES:

KRS 158.622

KRS 164.786

RELATED POLICIES:

08.113; 08.2323; 09.1221; 09.3; 09.435