

Chicago Public Schools Policy Manual

Title: AWARDING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT AND PLACEMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSES TAKEN BY ELEMENTARY GRADE STUDENTS

Section: 605.5

Board Report: 08-0827-PO7

Date Adopted: August 27, 2008

Policy:

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board rescind Board Report 06-0628-PO3 and adopt a new policy for Awarding High School Credit and Placement for High School Level Courses Taken by Elementary Grade Students.

PURPOSE: This policy establishes criteria for awarding high school credit or placement out of high school level courses for 7th and 8th grade students who have demonstrated proficiency and competency in high school level courses. This policy shall ensure high school credit and/or placement is awarded to Chicago Public Schools elementary students in compliance with the requirements of section 27-22.10 of the Illinois School Code.

POLICY TEXT:

I. INTRODUCTION

It is consistent with the philosophy that embraces an accelerated model of high school education that leads to students taking more advanced and challenging courses at the high school level. This policy will more accurately place 7th and 8th grade elementary students in appropriately challenging high school courses. Thus, the matriculation into high school for elementary grade students having already completed high school course work will be a seamless transition. Courses for high school credit or placement into advanced high school courses shall be offered in a manner that will allow qualifying students who wish to take such courses access to them.

All references to elementary grade students in this policy shall include only students enrolled in 7th and 8th grade. For purposes of this policy, references to courses taken in a high school setting includes only those courses taken at a CPS high school or at a CPS Academic Center located at a high school. Qualifying courses as described in this policy may include Illinois Virtual High School courses when the course satisfies the requirements noted in this policy as well the Board's Policy on Courses Taken Through Internet-Based Delivery 04-0428-PO1, as may be amended or otherwise modified. This policy shall take effect beginning with the 2008-2009 school year.

The Office of High Schools and High School Programs ("OHSP") will supervise an ongoing review of these programs to consider ongoing expansion and/or modification.

II. REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFERING A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSE FOR ELEMENTARY GRADE STUDENTS IN ALL SUBJECT AREAS EXCEPT MATHEMATICS

A. All high school level courses offered to elementary grade students, except high school level math courses, must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Teacher Certification: The teacher must hold a current high school certificate (Type 09) endorsed in the subject taught;
2. Curriculum: The course must follow the approved Chicago Public Schools ("CPS") high school level curriculum and/or CPS Course Framework approved by the appropriate CPS curriculum office. The principal and teacher must consult with OHSP for guidance when developing or selecting the course curriculum for the subject being taught;
3. Approval: For each high school class offered in the elementary school setting, the principal must complete and submit an application for approval by the Office of High School Programs in collaboration with the appropriate CPS curriculum office; and
4. Duration: The course must include a minimum of 120 contact hours of instruction.

- B. The principal with the assistance of the appropriate CPS curriculum office, the Office of Academic Enhancement and OHSP, will ensure the quality and the integrity of these classes by assuring that the course content meets the Illinois Learning Standards as outlined by the Illinois State Board of Education. All science courses offered must meet CPS laboratory requirements.

III. GRANTING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT OR PLACEMENT FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSES, IN ALL SUBJECT AREAS EXCEPT MATHEMATICS

Elementary grade students who are enrolled in qualifying high school level courses in any subject area except mathematics, as defined in Section II. of this policy, are eligible to obtain high school credit for their coursework or placement into advanced high school courses in accordance with the following:

A. High School Credit for Successful Completion of High School Level Courses

1. Requirements for Elementary grade students to earn High School credit for qualifying courses as defined in Section II are:
 - a. Successful completion of course requirements including examinations
 - b. For each semester, the student obtains a grade of C or better in the course
 - c. For each semester, the student maintains daily attendance that meets or exceeds the system-wide average

Elementary grade students taking a qualifying course at an Elementary School are only eligible to earn: (i) high school credit in subject areas where the Board's graduation credit requirements set out in the Minimum High School Graduation Requirements, (Board Report 06-0628-PO2), as may be amended or otherwise modified ("Graduation Policy"), exceed State mandated credit requirements; and (ii) a maximum of four (4) credits towards high school graduation provided the student has met all of the requirements noted above and may earn no more than one (1) credit in each subject area.

2. Students who meet the above stated requirements will receive credit for completion of a qualifying regular or honors level high school course and will be placed in the regular level high school course which sequentially follows the course in the curriculum. Students wishing to be placed in honors level classes may be required to complete a placement exam at the receiving high school.
3. High School credits awarded to elementary students will be included on the student's high school transcript. These credits will be included in the determination of the student's high school grade point average.

B. Offering Placement for Successful Completion of High School Level Courses, Except Mathematics Courses

Elementary grade students taking qualifying high school level courses in a high school setting must take the course for credit and are not eligible for placement. Elementary grade students taking qualifying high school level courses in an elementary school setting may take the course for credit in accordance with section III.A. or for placement in accordance with the following:

1. Requirements for elementary grade students who are enrolled in qualifying high school level courses as defined in Section II.A for placement into advanced high school level courses:
 - To obtain placement, a student must successfully complete the placement examination in the content area for which the student is seeking such placement before entering their receiving high school. The placement examination will be administered by the receiving high school, and used to determine the proper academic placement for the student.
2. Students who obtain placement in advanced high school courses will not receive credit for advanced coursework completed at the elementary grade level. The student's grades from advanced coursework completed at the elementary grade level will not be included in the

determination of the student's high school grade point average. The course may be included on the high school transcript in accordance with guidelines established by OHSP.

IV. REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFERING A HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL MATHEMATICS COURSE TO ELEMENTARY GRADE STUDENTS

A. High school level mathematics courses offered to Elementary grade students must meet the following requirements to be considered a qualifying course:

1. Approval: For each qualifying high school mathematics class, the principal must complete and submit an application for approval by the OHSP.
2. Teacher Certification: The teacher must hold a current high school certificate (Type 09) endorsed in senior high school mathematics to teach all high school level mathematics for credit. To be qualified to teach high school Algebra courses in the Elementary grade setting for placement, the teacher can hold a Type 09 certification with a senior high school mathematics endorsement or hold a Type 03 teaching certificate with a middle school mathematics endorsement and pass the district-approved Algebra Qualifying Examination. (To be eligible to take the Algebra qualifying examination, a teacher must complete a one-year series of university courses or obtain a waiver from the Office of Mathematics and Science.)
3. Curriculum: Principal must consult with the OHSP for guidance when developing or selecting the course curriculum for the subject being taught. A High School Algebra course must be aligned to Illinois Learning Standards and CPS Algebra Course Framework.
4. Duration: The course must include a minimum of 120 contact hours of instruction.

B. Courses offered in a university setting must meet the requirements described in sections IV.A.1, IV.A.3, IV.A.4 above, and student coursework, grades and attendance must be monitored and evaluated by a certified CPS teacher. A certified CPS teacher will issue the final grade.

V. HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT OR PLACEMENT FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL MATHEMATICS COURSES

Elementary grade students who are enrolled in qualifying high school level mathematics courses, as defined in Section IV of this policy, may obtain high school credit for their coursework or placement into advanced high school courses in accordance with the following.

A. High School Credit for Successful Completion of High School Level Mathematics

Elementary grade students who take a qualifying high school level mathematics course in a high school setting will obtain high school credit if they meet the following requirements:

1. Requirements for Offering High School Credit for a Qualifying High School Level Mathematics Courses. The student successfully completes the course requirements when:
 - a. The student successfully completes the course requirements including exams.
 - b. For each semester, the student obtains a grade of C or better in the course;
 - c. For Algebra courses, the student takes and earns the required score on the Citywide Algebra Exit Exam.
 - d. For other high school level mathematics courses, the student takes and earns the required score on any applicable exit exam.
 - e. Students who earn a high pass score on the Citywide Algebra Exit Exam, as based on CPS performance level descriptors determined by the Office of Research, Evaluation and Accountability, may be recommended for placement into an honors level course beyond Algebra 1.

2. High School credits awarded to elementary students will be included on the student's high school transcript. These credits will be included in the determination of the student's high school grade point average.

B. Offering Placement in Advanced High School Level Mathematics Courses

Elementary students taking qualifying high school level mathematics courses in a high school setting must take the course for credit. Elementary students taking qualifying high school level mathematics courses in an elementary school setting or university setting may take the course for placement in accordance with the following:

1. Elementary students who are enrolled in qualifying high school mathematics courses in their elementary school or in the university setting will place into advanced high school mathematics courses if they meet the following requirements:
 - a. The student successfully completes the course requirements including exams.
 - b. For each semester, the student obtains an average grade of C or better in the course.
 - c. For Algebra, the student takes and earns the required score on the Citywide Algebra Exit Exam.
 - d. For other high school level mathematics courses, the student takes and earns the required score on any applicable end of course examination.
 - e. Students who earn a high pass score on the Citywide Algebra Exit Exam, as based on CPS performance level descriptors determined by the Office of Research, Evaluation and Accountability, may be recommended for placement into an honors level course beyond Algebra I.
2. For courses taken for placement out of high school Algebra or other high school level mathematics courses, the grade will not be included in the determination of the student's high school grade point average. However, the Algebra and other high school level mathematics courses will be included on the high school transcript.
3. Elementary school students who meet the above requirements will be placed in the appropriate, advanced level mathematics course in high school, typically Geometry or Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry.

VI. ELEMENTARY GRADE STUDENTS TAKING HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSES OUTSIDE OF THE DISTRICT

A. Students who complete a high school level course in a setting outside of the district may be awarded high school credit by OHSP provided that the course was successfully completed in accordance with Section 27-22.10 of the School Code. In evaluating the request for credit, OHSP may choose not to accept the course if evidence of the course's rigor and content indicates it did not address the relevant Illinois Learning Standards at the appropriate level. Students who complete a high school level course in a setting outside of the district that does not meet these requirements are not eligible to receive high school credit for that course.

B. Students ineligible to receive high school credit for mathematics courses pursuant to this policy shall be eligible to place out of the high school level mathematics course and into an advanced high school level mathematics course as determined by OHSP if they meet the following criteria:

1. Demonstrates that he/she has successfully completed a high school level mathematics course
2. For algebra, the student may be required to take and earn the required score on the Citywide Algebra Exit Exam. As described above, students who earn a high pass score on the Citywide Algebra Exit Exam may be placed into honors level courses beyond Algebra I.

3. For other mathematics courses, the student may be required to take the applicable end of course exit examination, and, as described above, the student's score may be used for placement into an advanced level math course.
4. Elementary grade students who meet the above requirements will be placed in the appropriate, advanced level mathematics course in high school, typically Geometry or Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry.

VII. HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students who are placed in Geometry or Advanced Algebra/Trigonometry as freshmen must complete three (3) years of high school mathematics pursuant to the Board's Graduation Policy. All students who are placed into accelerated courses in subjects other than math must complete the next sequential course in the same subject area and meet the requirements of the Board's Graduation Policy.

Amends/Rescinds:	Rescinds 06-0628-PO3
Cross References:	04-0728-PO5; 01-0124-PO1; 99-0127-PO2; 98-0429-PO1
Legal References:	105 ILCS 5/27-22.10; Illinois State Board of Education November 2007 Guidance Document "State Graduation Requirements."