

The Rome City Schools Board of Education ("Board") shall fully comply with the requirements of Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.15 Awarding Units of Credit and Acceptance of Transfer Credit and/or Grades and the State Department of Education's Guidelines for Awarding Units of Credit. All terms used in this policy are as defined in the Rule and its Guidelines.

The requirements of this policy shall apply to all students regardless of the date they first entered the ninth grade.

Accredited Schools-Definition

For the purposes of this policy, accredited schools include an elementary, middle or secondary school accredited by or holding provisional status from one of the accrediting agencies listed in Georgia Board of Education Rule 160-5-1-.15, Acceptance of Transfer Credit and/or Grades. For schools outside the United States, the equivalency of accreditation is awarded by the Ministry of Education or the comparable government-approved agency of the country.

Awarding Units of Credit

Students shall be awarded credit only for courses that include concepts and skills based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12 approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) in accordance with the provisions for each program or course described in the State Board Rule(s) and State Department Guidelines.

The superintendent or designee is authorized to establish procedures whereby a student may earn course credit by demonstrating subject area competency without regard to the amount of instructional time the student spends in the course. Students and parents shall be advised of such opportunities through the student handbook and/or advisement materials.

An eligible student may earn course credit by "testing-out", which means scoring at the "Exceeds" level on a state End of Course Test (EOC) prior to taking the course. Students attempting to test-out must have parent permission and their parents shall be informed of potential costs prior to the EOC administration. The cost of EOC administration to students who attempt to test-out, but who do not score at the Exceeds level shall be paid by the parent or student. Course credit earned through testing-out shall be reported in the same way as credit earned through course completion. A student's numerical grade for the course in which the student tests out shall be determined by using the score on the EOC as the numerical grade for the course. Student eligibility criteria for earning credit by EOC "testing-out" and information regarding grade assignment and collection of any associated fees shall be included in the student handbook and/or advisement materials. Students may earn no more than three units of credit by demonstrating subject area competency under this paragraph. Credits earned by this method are generally not eligible for NCAA recognition, please consult NCAA guidelines for more information.

Awarding Credit for High School Courses Taken while in Middle School

Unit credit shall be awarded for courses successfully completed in the middle grades that meet 9 – 12 state requirements under the following conditions:

Courses must be based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12 approved by the State Board of Education.

Grades where high school credit is earned while a student is in middle school shall become part of the student's transcript but shall not be used in the calculation of school grade point averages, class rankings, Honor Student status, Valedictorian, and Salutatorian standings. These grades may not be included in HOPE GPA calculations per state rules.

The final grade earned for a high school course taken in middle school shall be entered on the high school transcript and unit credit awarded for passing the class

Accepting Transfer Credit and Grades

The Board will accept student course credit earned in an accredited school, which must have been accredited or hold provisional status at the time the credit was earned.

The Board will not substitute courses and exempt students from the required secondary minimum core curriculum unless the student transferred from an accredited secondary school or the courses presented for credit include concepts and skills based on the state-adopted curriculum for grades 9-12 approved by the SBOE.

Transfer credit shall be validated for courses taken at non-accredited schools, home study programs, and non-traditional educational centers.

Elementary and middle school students transferring from home study programs, non-accredited schools or non-traditional centers will be placed at the appropriate grade level in a probationary placement based on the student's records in prior schools or programs and satisfactory performance in a district school for one grading period and/or based on satisfactory performance on standardized or locally developed tests focusing on grade level or subject area.

High school students transferring from home study programs, non-accredited schools or non-traditional centers will be placed in the appropriate grade level based on the number of units earned toward graduation. Units of credit shall be granted for courses that meet state-adopted curriculum standards for grades 9-12 and/or based on satisfactory performance on standardized or locally developed tests focusing on subject area. High school transfer students must take and state-mandated assessments, including applicable End of Course Tests.

For student transcript purposes, grades for courses taken by transferring students will be accepted as recorded on the transcript from the issuing school or program. Letter grades for high school transfer student will be converted to numerical grades using either a conversion scale provided by the prior

school or, if a scale is not available, using a conversion formula established by the Superintendent or designee. Transferred course titles, if necessary, will be changed to appropriate course titles in the list of state funded courses.

The Superintendent or designee(s) will be responsible for having a process in place for:

- Determining whether transfer courses meet the state-adopted curriculum;
- Placing transfer students at the appropriate level and granting units of credit for high school students based on this policy;
- Administering any required EOC in accordance with state assessment guidelines and the state rule concerning transfer credit; and
- Ensuring that grades are placed on student transcripts.

Exchange Students

Exchange students who wish to pursue a Rome High School Diploma will be required to earn a minimum of one-half of the units required for graduation at Rome High School.

JBCB Nonresident Students

5/14/2019

Student Tuition

In keeping with the City Charter of Rome, it shall be the policy of the Rome City School System to admit non-resident students subject to the following:

Non-resident tuition students may be accepted in schools with available space in the attendance zone of their point of entry into the city. If a student moves out of the attendance zone during the year, the student may continue at that school for the remainder of the school year and then, if approved, transfer to the appropriate school the next school year. However, a student in grades 7-12 who moves out of the attendance zone may continue at that school for the remainder of the school year and ensuing years if approved for tuition status.

The fee for tuition students shall be set by the Board of Education but will not exceed the amount allowed by law and paid in advance. This fee is due in full no later than October 15 or before the first day of attendance if a student enrolls after this date.

Once accepted, tuition students in grades K-6 will become eligible for intra-district transfer. Policy JBCC explains the intra-district transfer option. Acceptance is based on availability after resident students have been accepted pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-2131.

Tuition students will be permitted to continue as long as their presence is mutually beneficial to the student and school, as defined by an A or B average in each core content course, an excellent discipline record, and satisfactory attendance that is aligned with current Rome City requirements of all students. The status of each tuition student shall be evaluated bi-annually, and if concerns exist students may be put on a tuition probation period of one semester. In the case of extreme discipline