

Extended Learning Opportunities

The Sanford School Department supports Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOs) at Sanford High School (SHS) and Sanford Regional Technical Center (SRTC) as a means for students to acquire knowledge and skills outside of the traditional classroom. ELOs provide for the primary acquisition of knowledge and skills through instruction or study which extends beyond the classroom and course requirements. Students engage in ELOs at a community partner site with a community mentor. The intent of this program is to provide educational experiences to students that are relevant, meaningful, and engaging.

All such opportunities must be aligned with the school's educational goals and objectives. Students who complete an ELO successfully will earn credit in either core or elective course areas. A student must demonstrate their proficiency on the standards outlined in the ELO's Project Outline as approved by a Highly Qualified Teacher.

The Superintendent directs the Principal of SHS and the Director of SRTC to establish a protocol for the application, approval (including number of credits to be awarded), and evaluation of Extended Learning Opportunities. The Principal of SHS and the Director of SRTC will have primary responsibility and authority for ensuring the implementation of ELOs and all aspects of such programs. The Principal of SHS and the Director of SRTC will determine who will be responsible for approving student eligibility and such approval will include consideration of the overall benefits, costs, advantage and disadvantages to both the student and the district.

Unless otherwise recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the School Committee, under ordinary circumstances students or their parents/guardians are responsible for all related expenses including tuition, transportation, textbooks and material fees. The School Department may provide transportation if available and feasible. Students who have a financial or transportation need that would prevent them from participating may request school assistance through the ELO Manager. Such requests may be granted at the discretion of the Superintendent, if district resources are available.

Students may travel with approved Community Mentors provided the Principal of SHS and the Director of SRTC have approved the "ELO Mentor-Student Travel Consent Form," the parent/legal guardian has signed the consent form, and the approved Mentor has completed the Sanford School Department's "Private Vehicle Use Authorization Form."

Students approved for off-campus ELOs are responsible for their personal safety and well-being. ELOs will require a signed agreement between the school, the student, the student's parent/guardian, and a designated agent of the community partner site. The agreement would specify the roles and responsibilities of each party.

It is the student's responsibility to maintain academic standing and enrollment in the approved program. Any failure to complete an approved ELO may jeopardize the student's ability to earn credit for the course. The student and parent/guardian recognize that in the event the student withdraws from an ELO, the District cannot guarantee placement in an equivalent course. If a student is unable to complete an ELO for valid reasons, the Principal, Principal's designee, or assigned HQT will evaluate the learning experience to date and make a determination for the award of partial credit or recommend an alternate experience.

Adopted: June 18, 2012