

# **SJE Board Policy 2413 - Equivalency Credit Opportunities**

## **I. Experiential Education Opportunities**

The district may grant credit, including high school graduation credit, for school planned or approved learning experiences which may be conducted away from the facilities owned, operated, or supervised by the district or conducted primarily by individuals not employed by the district. To grant credit for such experiences, a proposal for approval of credit must be submitted to the district's designated team.

The proposal shall include the following elements:

- (a) Name of program or planned learning experience;
- (b) Length of time for which approval is desired;
- (c) Objectives of the program or planned learning experience;
- (d) Which one or more of the state learning goals and related essential academic learning requirements are part of the program or planned learning experience;
- (e) Description of how credits shall be determined (completion of a district-defined course or satisfactory demonstration of proficiency/mastery in the related state learning standards in accord with WAC 180-51-050(1)) and WAC 180-51-051;
- (f) Content outline of the program and/or major learning activities and instructional materials to be used;
- (g) Description of how student performance will be assessed;
- (h) Qualifications of instructional personnel;
- (i) Plans for evaluation of program; and
- (j) How and by whom the student will be supervised.

Approved experiences may include, but are not limited to, the following: School planned or approved learning experiences such as travel study, work study, private lessons, and education programs sponsored by governmental agencies.

## **II. Career and Technical Education Courses Provided by the District**

Until September 1, 2021, the district will offer high school students with the opportunity to access at least one career and technical education course that is considered a statewide equivalency course as determined by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction under RCW 28A.700.070.

On or after September 1, 2021, any statewide equivalency course offered by the district or accessed at a skill center will be offered for academic credit.

The district may also adopt local course equivalencies for career and technical education courses that are not on the list of courses approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction under RCW 28A.700.070.

Each high school will adopt core academic course equivalencies for high school career and technical courses, provided that the career and technical course has been reviewed and approved for equivalency credit by a district team appointed by the Superintendent or designee.

The district team will include a school administrator, an instructor from the core academic subject area, an instructor from the appropriate Career and Technical Education course, and school counselor.

Career and technical courses approved for equivalency will be:

1. Aligned with the state's essential academic learning requirements and grade level expectations; and
2. Aligned with current industry standards, as evidenced in the curriculum frameworks. The local career and technical advisory committee will certify that courses meet industry standards.
3. Recorded on the student's transcripts as the academic course the equivalence credit fulfills.

### **III. Mastery/Competency-based credits**

Students may obtain from .5 to 1 credit of mastery-based credit for English Language Arts, Math, and Science by passing a district-created assessment (if an assessment has been developed) that is aligned to state learning standards and course equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). Students do not need to have attempted and failed a course before being eligible for these options. The available options may include:

- Locally created written or oral test;
- Written report by the student;
- Student-designed portfolio of work;
- Student presentation or oral defense of their learning in the course;
- Hands-on demonstration of knowledge and skills; or
- A combination of assessment approaches, as defined by the district.

Successful completion of next higher-level course: Credit may be awarded for a course when the student successfully completes the next higher-level course in a sequence that includes a natural progression of the state learning standards from the previous course. State or locally determined learning standards will be used as the guide when making decisions regarding what courses should qualify.

Mastery-based credit is available in English Language Arts, Math, and Science if the student achieves a "C" or higher grade in the next-higher level course.

The mastery/competency examination must be offered in a proctored setting with appropriate technology. The Principal or designee will approve the site(s) where the examination is offered, which could include individual schools, district buildings, community colleges, universities, education service districts, or other community settings. A student may take the examination a maximum of two times. The student will be awarded credit based on the highest examination score.

The student will be responsible for the cost of taking a mastery/competency examination. Financial assistance to students who demonstrate need, such as qualifying for free or reduced lunch is offered by the district.

The Principal or designee will receive official test results for each student who takes a mastery/competency examination. The Principal or designee will provide a letter to the student with a copy of the test results and an indication of how many credits the student will be awarded. Credits awarded will be recorded on the student's transcript with a grade of "Pass."

To ensure cultural responsiveness and equity in awarding mastery-based credit, the Principal or designee will collect and annually review disaggregated data to see which subgroups of students are receiving mastery-based credit. If disproportionality is found, the Principal or designee will take appropriate action to ensure equitable access to these crediting opportunities.

### **Courses taken before attending high school**

A student may be awarded high school credit for computer science courses taken before attending high school if either of the following occurs:

1. The course was taken with high school students, if the academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing the same course requirements and examinations as the high school students enrolled in the class; or
2. The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high school credit because the course is similar or equivalent to a course offered at a high school in the district determined by the board.

Students who have taken and successfully completed high school courses under the circumstances above shall not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive credit.

## **IV. Computer Science Courses**

### **AP courses**

The board will approve Advanced Placement (AP) computer science courses as equivalent to high school mathematics or science, and may be used by a student to meet math or science graduation requirements. The Superintendent or designee will adopt procedures to denote on the student's transcript that AP computer science qualifies as a math-based quantitative course for students who complete it in their senior year.

### **Mastery/Competency-based credits**

A student may be awarded academic credit for completing a computer science credit based on completion of a mastery/competency examination that is aligned with the state learning standards for computer science or mathematics and course equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

To receive mastery/competency-based credits for computer science, a student must take a mastery/competency examination that OSPI has found aligns with the state learning standards for computer science or mathematics and that aligns with course equivalency requirements adopted by OSPI. The number of credits awarded will be based on the student's performance on the mastery/competency examination.

Cross References:                    2170 - Career and Technical Education  
    2410 - High School Graduation Requirements

Legal References:                    Laws of 2019, ch. 180, § 2 High school computer science courses—  
    Availability—Competency testing  
    RCW 28A.230.010 Course content requirements—Access to career and  
    technical course equivalencies—Duties of school boards of directors—  
    Waivers  
    RCW 28A.230.097 Career and technical high school course  
    equivalencies.  
    RCW 28A.230.120 High School Diplomas – Issuance- Option to receive  
    final transcripts –Notice  
    WAC 180-51 High school graduation requirements  
    WAC 392-410 Courses of study and equivalencies

Management Resources:           2019 - July Policy Issue  
    2018 - May Policy Issue  
    2013 - September Issue  
    Policy News, August 2006 Legislature Codifies Course  
    Equivalency for Career and Technical Courses

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