

ADMISSION OF NONPUBLIC STUDENTS FOR FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT

The Wise County School System is committed to providing quality educational opportunities for all eligible students living in Wise County. These opportunities are extended to students who transfer from a non-accredited school, have been home instructed or approved for religious exemption from compulsory school attendance if said county resident students desire to enter/re-enter the public schools.

Standards for accrediting public schools in Virginia provide guidance for selected students entering the Wise County Public Schools. Regulation VAC-20-130-60-A (Transfer of Credit) states:

“ A secondary school shall accept credits received from other accredited secondary schools, including summer schools, special sessions, schools accredited through the Virginia Council for Private Education, and educational programs operated by the state. Credit also shall be accepted for courses satisfactorily completed in accredited colleges and universities when prior written approval of the principal has been granted.”

Policy JECC provides guidance for students transferring from non-accredited schools, home instructed, and religious exempted students who do not transfer from the schools listed above.

Policy JECC is designed to offer public school educational opportunity for students who desire to re-enroll/enroll at Grade K or above. Placement for said students will be processed as follows:

D. GRADES K-8

Children who live in Wise County and have been attending a non-accredited school, home instructed or a religious exempted program and desire to enroll in the Wise County Public Schools in Grades K-8 will be placed at the appropriate grade level as determined by the receiving school principal. Children who have been attending a non-accredited school, home instructed, or religious exempted program in grade 8 will be required to take examinations and meet end of course SOL test requirements in each credit-bearing course for which they wish to receive credit.

These same requirements are established by the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, and must be met by public school students enrolled in the same courses. Credit will not be granted unless the child has been instructed for a full term (minimum of 140 clock hours). Children may be required to take a placement test in order to determine appropriate grade level placement. Standards of Learning (SOL) test results shall be considered in promotion and retention policies. The principal is authorized to move the child within 30 school days of initial enrollment to a higher or lower grade level placement if the child's performance indicates the child is inappropriately placed.

E. GRADES 9-12

Children who have been attending a non-accredited school, home instructed or religious exempted program in grades 9-12 will be required to take examinations and meet end of course SOL test requirements in each credit-bearing course for which they wish to receive credit. These same requirements are established by the Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia, and must be met by public school students enrolled in the same courses. Credit will not be granted unless the child has been instructed for a full term (minimum of 140 clock hours).

Students enrolling full time at a Wise County high school will be eligible to transfer up to a maximum of twelve (12) credits toward a standard diploma or fourteen (14) credits toward an advanced studies diploma. A grade of pass (P) will be granted for credits earned by a student from a non-accredited school, home instruction or religious exempted program and any such credits will not be included in determining the grade point average of a student. To receive a Wise County high school diploma, a student from a non-accredited school, home instruction or religious exemption program must complete a minimum of twelve (12) additional Wise County Public School credits for a standard diploma and fourteen (14) Wise County Public School credits for an advanced studies diploma. In addition, a student must earn all required junior and senior credits and meet all other requirements established by the State Board of Education. Students who have been enrolled in a non-accredited school, home instructed or a religious exempted program will not be permitted to compete for valedictorian or salutatorian honors unless they have earned a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits for a standard diploma or a minimum of twenty-eight(28) credits for an advanced studies diploma from an accredited school.

F. APPEALS

Parents may appeal the child's grade placement to the Director of Instruction. The parent has the responsibility to offer evidence of the inappropriateness of the grade placement. If the parent is not satisfied with the decision of the Director of Instruction, the next level of appeal is to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision may be appealed to the Wise County School Board. The decision of the Wise County School Board is final.

Legal Refs: Code of Virginia 22.1-25 C(1)(3)(4)

Amended: September 14, 1999