

Credit for Online Courses

The Board recognizes the importance of technology in education and the growing popularity and use of online coursework. In that regard, and in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a, the Board sanctions the receipt of online course credit to be used toward high school graduation requirements, in accordance with this policy.

Pre-Approval of Courses Identified by Students and Parents

To receive credit for online courses to be used toward high school graduation requirements, students must, prior to registering for the course, receive approval from the high school principal or his/her designee. The decision of the principal or his/her designee with regard to online course credit approval is final. Pre-approval for online course credit may be granted if the requirements set forth below are met.

District-Provided Distance Learning

Students may also earn credit for high school graduation by participating successfully in distance learning offered by the Board during the COVID-19 health emergency, or other long-term school closure related to a community-wide emergency. Determination of successful participation will be made by the teacher teaching the course through district-provided distance learning, taking into account work performed by the student prior to the school closure.

Requirements for Online Coursework

1. Online coursework is intended to enhance course offerings at Waterford High School and should not take the place of courses offered at Waterford High School. In some circumstances, approval for online courses already offered at Waterford High School may be granted if the limitations of the Waterford High School schedule do not permit a student to take a course that they have been recommended for by the school. If a student takes an online course that is already offered at Waterford High School, the student must take and pass the Waterford High School course final exam to receive credit for the course.
2. The workload and passing criteria is substantially equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting;
3. The content of the online course is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate;
4. The course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their teachers, participation in online demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs;
5. The program of instruction for such online coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic;

Instruction

Credit for Online Courses (continued)

6. The courses are:
 - a. taught by teachers who are certified in Connecticut or another state and have received training on teaching in an online environment, or
 - b. offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or regionally accredited.

Additional Requirements

Only students in grades 9-12 are eligible to receive credit toward high school graduation by taking online courses. Students who have been pre-approved shall receive such credit upon completing the online course and obtaining a passing grade.

Any expense incurred for taking an online course identified by the student and/or parent shall be the responsibility of the student/parent and shall not be the responsibility of the Board. Distance learning provided to students during the COVID-19 or other community-wide emergency shall be provided at Board expense.

Legal References

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a

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WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Waterford, Connecticut