

## CREDIT FLEXIBILITY

**Philosophy**

Ohio's plan for credit flexibility is designed to broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, increase the depth of study possible for a particular subject, and allow tailoring of learning time and/or conditions. These are ways in which aspects of learning can be customized around more of the students' interests and needs.

A credit flex opportunity at Cuyahoga Falls City Schools is a student owned learning opportunity that:

- ✓ Provides more choice and autonomy in deciding how, when and where students learn.
- ✓ Provides more options for individually suited pathways to post-secondary and career goals.
- ✓ Provides acceleration and convenience including more options for courses in the school schedule (especially for fitting in electives)

**Students may flexibly earn high school credit through the following:**

**A. Demonstration of Mastery****1. Test-out options**

Students will have the opportunity to complete end-of-course exams in the following academic areas: English 9, English 10, English 11, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, World History, American History, Government, Physical Science and Biology. Credit and grade to be earned.

**2. Advanced Placement Test-Out Option (Fee Required)**

The College Board requires that an AP class be taken in order to be reported as an AP course as a transcript.

Students who are scheduled and have met the prerequisite guidelines to enroll in an advanced placement class may elect to attempt the AP exam before participation in the class. Students who score a 5 will be awarded an A as their final grade, students who score a 4 will be awarded a B as their final grade, and students who score a 3 will be awarded a C as their final grade. Any score lower than a 3 will not be considered successful, and the student will be expected to participate in the class in order to earn the credit. Once a student has enrolled in the class, they must finish the class, and the test-out option is no longer available. **Students must declare their intention to take an AP exam and pay the exam fee by March 1 of the year before the class is scheduled.** The fee for 2013-14 was \$89. Fee reductions are available for those who qualify.

**B. Enrichment through experience or performance:**

Experiences must reflect the scope, type, depth and content that *the course with which it is aligned* is intended to cover.

1. Grades earned through independent study, internships/field experiences, community service/service learning, or educational travel will result from collaboration between a Cuyahoga Falls Teacher of Record and/or approved outside mentors.
2. Physical Education Exemption: Students who participate in at least two seasons of marching band, cheerleading or athletics at Cuyahoga Falls High School are eligible to forego the required half-credit for physical education. This half-credit must be replaced with a half-credit elective course as scheduled by the school counselor. This exemption may not be used to replace one physical education class; it may only be used to replace the two required physical education classes.

**C. Coursework****1. Summer School**

Students may earn credit toward graduation by enrolling and successfully completing a course at Cuyahoga Falls High School or another accredited high school. It is important that the student complete the application and be preapproved to assure that the course is required and credit will transfer to Cuyahoga Falls High School. Students are responsible for associated costs.

**2. Distance Learning**

Any course taught where the instructor and the student are not in the same location is considered a distance learning course.

**3. Online Learning**

Students will complete online coursework in various subjects at their own pace. Credit is awarded upon successful completion of the class. Students will be scheduled for this option as appropriate and as space allows.

**4. Correspondence Learning**

Correspondence courses become necessary when students find themselves behind in credits for various reasons. Correspondence courses are offered through various accredited providers and will be explored in situations deemed appropriate by the school counselor and approved by the administration.

**Fees**

Actual cost of participating in credit flex options not provided by the district will be at the expense of the student. Every reasonable effort shall be made to provide a free or low-cost assessment option when necessary.

**Program Integrity**

In order to ensure the integrity of the learning experience approved under this program, the student will be required periodically and/or upon demand to provide evidence of progress and attendance. The principal or his/her designee will be responsible for certifying course completion and the award of credits consistent with the District's policies on graduation. If a student ceases to attend or is unable to complete the Credit Flexibility Opportunity for any reason, the school drop policy will be in effect – see Program of Studies for details.

**OHSAA/NCAA Considerations**

Students wishing to participate in high school athletics must be aware that Credit Flexibility learning experiences may not be factored into their eligibility considerations. We recommend that students continue to enroll in courses posted on the approved NCAA website to remain eligible for participation.

Students wishing to pursue Division I or Division II NCAA athletics eligibility are responsible for ensuring that they will meet the appropriate requirements.

OHSAA requires that student-athletes must receive passing grades in a minimum of five one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period in order to be eligible to participate.

**Retroactive Credit**

Students will not be allowed to retroactively receive credit for courses or experiences taken prior to the submission of an application. Therefore all courses taken or credit gained prior to the approval of the committee will not be granted to students.