

BOARD POLICY

No. 6195

6000 – INSTRUCTION

6195 Credit for Online Courses

The Regional School District No. 8 Board of Education 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. Online courses must meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. The course is not offered at RHAM High School
2. The high school *does* offer the course, but the student is unable to take the course due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict *and* with the principal's or his/her designee's permission.
3. The principal or his/her designee determines that student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment with agreement from the student's teachers and parents/guardians.
4. The student has failed a course and wishes to recover credits in that course area with the principal's or his/her designee's permission.

Pre-approval

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 (i.e., department coordinator). The decision of the principal or his/her designee with regard to online course credit approval is final. Preapproval for online course credit shall be granted if the online course meets the following requirements:

1. The workload required by the online course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional classroom setting;
2. The content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate;
3. 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;
4. The program of instruction for such online coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic; and
5. 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.

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6. The principal or his/her designee has determined, in his or her professional judgment, that, given the student's academic and disciplinary history, the student is appropriately suited to engage in online coursework.

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.

The Board of Education may, in its discretion, cover the cost for online courses that are not offered as in-class or online courses at RHAM. The Board of Education may also cover the cost of Virtual High School courses offered through the district's subscription with Virtual High School.

Legal References

Connecticut General Statutes § 10-221a (as amended by Public Act 10-111, Section 16).

ADOPTED:	January, 2011
REVISED:	May, 2013
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