

COURSE CHALLENGING: 2409

The Federal Way School District believes that all students can be successful and recognizes that the rate of achievement varies among individual students. Early identification of student needs, focused support and intervention, and the development of partnerships between home and school are integral elements in assuring student success.

Each student's progress toward promotion standards is a shared responsibility of the student, parents/guardians, and school staff. It is the responsibility of the student to apply consistent, sustained and high-quality efforts toward assigned learning experiences. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to be actively involved in the development and implementation of strategies to support their student's achievement. It is the responsibility of school staff to identify at the earliest possible opportunity student needs, to communicate with parents/guardian and students concerning student needs and progress, and to work together with parents/guardians and the student to develop and implement an appropriate program to support the student's progress toward standards and beyond.

If the student and the parent/guardian wish to challenge a recommended course in a content sequence or other recommended course of study the following options are available. Course challenge options are available for credit bearing courses only. This policy does not address grade level to grade level promotion. Grade level to grade level promotion is addressed in Policy 2421:

Option 1: "Opting-Up" – On or before June 1st, the parent/guardian requests in writing that said student advance to the next course in a respective content sequence without taking a recommended course of study. Upon receiving a written request, the school staff has five (5) school days to review previous academic data, contact the parent/guardian to discuss the options for said student and make a recommendation. If parent/guardian continues with the request, said student will be advanced to the next course in the respective content series. This Option may only be used to skip one (1) course level in a course sequence. Those wishing to skip more than one course level must use Option 2 below, which requires an end-of-course exam. The student will not receive any credit for any skipped course in the content series without having taken and passed an end-of-course exam. State required courses may not be skipped. A student will graduate from high school when s/he has met established District and State requirements as provided in Policy 2410.

Option 2: Challenge by Exam – By June 1st, the parent/guardian requests in writing that an end-of-course exam to be administered to said student. The school staff has ten (10) school days to administer and score such exam. If said student meets standard on the end-of-course exam, the student will earn credit and a "Passing" grade for the course. This grade will permanently remain on the student's official transcript. A student will graduate from high school when s/he has met established District and State requirements as provided in Policy 2410.

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Amendments of 1974, Pub. L. 93-516, 29
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