

Option Two Programs and Guidelines

Option Two extends flexibility at the local level by allowing schools to choose from an array of models for developing activities or programs linked to the NJ Student Learning Standards, such as: interdisciplinary and theme-based programs; independent study; co-curricular and extracurricular activities; magnet programs; student exchange programs; distance learning opportunities; internships; community service; or other structured learning experiences.

General Procedures

Applications for Option Two programs are located on the high school website under the Guidance department. Applications must be submitted four weeks before each semester. Therefore, students must complete and submit an application by August 1st for the fall semester and by January 1st for the spring semester. In order to be awarded credit, prior administrative approval by the department supervisor, director of guidance, and principal must be obtained before enrolling in any Option Two Program.

Applicants must demonstrate with documentation that the program meets or exceeds each of the NJ Student Learning Standards for that area. Option Two programs are usually for **elective credit experiences and not to be used to replace NJ Department of Education required core courses for graduation.**

Teachers and instructors must be certified and properly licensed by the appropriate state agencies. Teachers and instructors must present certification upon request and be approved by the Board of Education.

Any costs incurred as a result of an Option Two program will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The Board of Education will not assume any responsibility for any fees associated with this program.

The teacher or instructor will record student achievement and attendance for the duration of the course. Progress will be reported every five weeks in the form of progress reports and report cards to parents as in any other course. This documentation, as well as a statement of assurances, will be submitted to the Director of Guidance or supervisor before credit is awarded.

Option Two Programs and Guidelines (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a) 1ii)
Policy #5460 High School Graduation
Revised 08/19/2022

- Prior administrative approval by the department supervisor, director of guidance, and principal must be obtained before enrolling in any Option Two program
- Any costs incurred as a result of an Option Two program will be the responsibility of the parent/ guardian. The Board of Education will not assume any responsibility for any fees associated with this program.

Option Two Program	Grade, Credit, Rank	Description
Early College Admissions Program	Numerical grade awarded Credits count toward graduation requirements. Not included in GPA & class rank.	Upon completion of grade 11, students at Mahwah High School who have demonstrated ability to pursue advanced academic study, may enroll in full-time college degree courses in lieu of a high school year. Requires recommendations, scores, and admissions offer. Tuition incurred is the responsibility of parent/guardian. <i>Partnership with/but not limited to</i> Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah, NJ Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ Rockland Community College, Rockland, NY

<p>On-Campus College Program</p>	<p>Numerical grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Grade 11- 12 students may enroll in college courses at Ramapo College for both college and high school credit. All fees for college credits and any necessary transportation arrangements are the responsibility of the student and his/her family.</p> <p><u>Partnership with/but not limited to</u> Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah, NJ Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ Rockland Community College, Rockland, NY</p>
<p>Dual Enrollment Program</p>	<p>Numerical grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Grade 11-12 students receive both high school and college credit if they meet the criteria for participation in the program. Parents/guardians pay a fee directly to college/university in order to receive credit. All fees for college credits are the responsibility of the student and his/her family.</p> <p><u>Articulation Agreements with/but not limited to</u> Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ- Project Acceleration Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ Fairleigh Dickenson University, Teaneck, NJ- Middle College Saint Elizabeth’s University, Morris Town, NJ NJIT, Newark, NJ; Saint Thomas Aquinas College, Orangeburg, NY; and Ramapo College of NJ, Mahwah, NJ.</p>
<p>High school level courses taken prior to grade nine</p>	<p>Numerical grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Districts may utilize performance or competency assessments to approve student completion of programs aimed at meeting or exceeding the NJ Student Learning Standards.</p> <p>Middle school students who take high school level courses at Ramapo Ridge Middle School may use those courses to meet prerequisites for advanced courses in particular content areas. Such approved courses are listed separately on a student’s transcript. <i>Courses taken prior to grade 9 are not included in the GPA or class rank.</i> Course credits will count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p><u>Approved level 1 courses taught at Ramapo Ridge Middle School by certified staff:</u> Algebra 1 Geometry Spanish 1 French 1</p>
<p>Courses for advancement</p>	<p>Numerical grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Districts may utilize performance or competency assessments to approve student completion of programs aimed at meeting or exceeding the NJ Student Learning Standards.</p> <p>Grade 9, 10, 11 students who take high school level courses at an approved school during the summer may use those courses to meet prerequisites for advanced courses in particular content areas. Such approved courses are listed separately on a student’s transcript. <i>Students will need to successfully pass Mahwah High School’s written assessment in order to demonstrate that they meet or exceed expectations for content mastery in order for credits to be awarded.</i> Course credits will count toward graduation requirements.</p>

		<p><u>Partnership with/ but not limited to:</u> Bergen Community College, Paramus, NJ Ridgewood High School, Ridgewood, NJ</p>
Co-curricular activities	<p>Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Assignment of credit for participation in activities that occur all or some of which occur outside of the regular classroom schedule.</p> <p>Grade 9-12 students receive credit in activities that meet or exceed the NJ Student Learning Standards. The Principal must approve all activities in advance.</p> <p><u>Courses of study approved by BOE for:</u> Marching Band 1,2,3,4 Jazz Band 1,2,3,4</p>
Online Courses/ Virtual Learning Programs	<p>Numerical grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>An option for earning course credit via online courses/ virtual learning experiences from an accredited college/university or approved NJ content area certified teacher. Grade 11- 12 students may receive credit in courses approved by department supervisors in elective courses not offered at the high school. Enrichment courses are permitted in non-core academic courses not required for graduation.</p> <p><u>Articulation agreement with:</u> Educere, LLC 455 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 140 Fort Washington PA, 19034</p> <p>The Virtual High School (VHS, Inc.) 4 Mill and Main Place Suite 510 Maynard, MA 01754</p>
Online Home Instruction	<p>Numerical grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>This option may also be used for students in grades 9-12 as a means of providing long term, medically approved home instruction. Courses must be taught by a NJ certified content area teacher <i>Students will need to successfully pass Mahwah High School's written assessment in order to demonstrate that they meet or exceed expectations for content mastery in order for credits to be awarded.</i> Course credits will count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p><u>Articulation Agreement with:</u> Educere, LLC 455 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 140 Fort Washington PA, 19034</p> <p>MOESC ATT: New Jersey Virtual School 900 Hope Road Tinton Falls NJ 07712</p>

<p>World Language Program- Native Language Assessment</p>	<p>Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Students participate in a written and oral assessment in a native language on the state's approved list for credit.</p> <p>Grade 9-12 native speaking students pass a written and oral proficiency assessment administered by a state approved assessor. Upon passing, students are awarded world language credits counting towards graduation. All fees associated with the proficiency assessment are the responsibility of the parent /guardian.</p>
<p>World Language Program- Approval of Instructional Programs Offering World Languages Not Taught in Public School Districts</p>	<p>Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>N.J.S.A. 18A:35-4.18: Provides students in public schools the opportunity to receive instruction in, and graduation credit for, a world language not taught in the public school district.</p>
<p>World Language Exchange Programs- Study Abroad</p>	<p>Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Grade 11 and 12 students may earn credits by participating in an approved and accredited exchange program of study. Prior approval must be obtained from the Principal. All costs are the responsibility of the parent/ guardian.</p>
<p>Thunderbird Internship Program: Career & Academic Internships (Work-based Learning Experience)</p>	<p>Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Workplace training, apprenticeships, internships</p> <p>Grade 11 and 12 students may earn up to 20 credits each year through an approved work-based learning experience in an area of career interest. To be eligible for a work-based learning experience you must be on track for meeting graduation requirements. Students are required to maintain and submit a portfolio/ journal in order to demonstrate that they have met the goals and objectives of the experience.</p> <p>District Work-based Coordinator- Ms. Estania Noel</p>
<p>Thunderbird Externship Program: Career Pathway Exploration &</p>	<p>Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>The MHS Thunderbird Externship Program: Career Pathway Exploration & Job Shadowing is an opportunity for rising juniors (grade 11) and rising seniors (grade 12) to gain real-world work experience. This program is available to students in good academic standing who are on-track with their educational plan.</p>

Job Shadowing		The program empowers students to take ownership of their education by pursuing an externship in a special area of interest. Participants will expand their learning experience by participating in an authentic real life career shadowing and exploration experience with a professional in the community.
Community Service Action Program (Off-campus)	<p>Pass (P) or Fail (F) grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Students may volunteer (without any monetary compensation) outside of their scheduled day in elementary schools, pre-school programs, health/safety related fields, or the community and receive credit. For every 27.5 hours of service, students will earn one credit. A maximum of 10 elective credits will be applied to graduation requirements.</p> <p>District Community Service Coordinator- Stacy Mandel</p>
Physical Education through interscholastic athletic participation.	<p>Pass/ Fail grade awarded</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Grade 9-12 student-athletes may enroll in this program during any season(s) for high school credit in physical education.</p> <p>Students will need to successfully complete and pass Mahwah High School's written and performance assessments in order to demonstrate that they meet or exceed expectations for content mastery for credits to be awarded. Signed logs documenting for time must also be completed weekly.</p> <p>Marking Period 1- Fall Season Marking Period 2- Winter Season Marking Period 4- Spring Season</p> <p>Coordinated and supervised by Roger Pelletier, Supervisor/AD</p>
Dance (off campus programs)	<p>Pass/ Fail grade awarded</p> <p>Elective credits count toward graduation requirements in performing arts.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Grade 9-12 students may earn credits by participating in an approved and accredited dance program of study that fulfills the NJ Student Learning Standards for Dance.</p> <p>Applicants must demonstrate <u>with documentation</u> that the program meets or exceeds each of the NJ Student Learning Standards for that area. Option Two programs are usually for elective credit experiences and not to be used to replace NJ Department of Education required core courses for graduation.</p> <p>Applications must be submitted four weeks before each semester. Therefore, students must complete and submit an application by August 1st for the fall semester and by January 1st for the spring semester. In order to be awarded credit, prior administrative approval by the department supervisor, director of guidance, and principal must be obtained before enrolling in any Option Two Program.</p> <p>Teachers and instructors must be certified and properly licensed by the appropriate state agencies. Teachers and instructors must present certification upon request and be approved by the Board of Education. Students submit a log of hours, and a portfolio with video which will be graded using a performance rubric. Prior approval must be obtained from the Performing arts supervisor.</p>

		<p>Dance is a performing art and is not an eligible for physical education credit.</p> <p>Coordinated and supervised by Miriam Lezanski, Supervisor</p>
Other elective areas	<p>Pass/ Fail grade awarded, unless a transcript is provided by the sponsoring institution.</p> <p>Credits count toward graduation requirements.</p> <p>Not included in GPA & class rank.</p>	<p>Applicants must demonstrate <u>with documentation</u> that the program meets or exceeds each of the NJ Student Learning Standards for that area. Option Two programs are usually for elective credit experiences and are not to be used to replace NJ Department of Education required core courses required for graduation.</p> <p>Applications must be submitted four weeks before each semester. Therefore, students must complete and submit an application by August 1st for the fall semester and by January 1st for the spring semester. In order to be awarded credit, prior administrative.</p> <p>Instructors must be certified and properly licensed by the appropriate state agencies. Teachers and instructors must present certification upon request and be approved by the Board of Education.</p> <p>Students submit proof of attendance.</p>
<p>NOTE: As per NJDOE guidelines and NJSLS, dance is a performing art and is not an eligible for physical education credit.</p>		