

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 111  
WATERTOWN-MAYER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY**

**1001 NON-PUBLIC AND HOME-SCHOOLS POLICY**

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**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a structure for determining credits toward graduation and for participation in extra-curricular activities for students not enrolled in the Watertown-Mayer Public Schools.

**II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

Independent School District No. 111 recognizes the value of various educational settings and opportunities for all learners. In accordance with this philosophy, the District is committed to working cooperatively with students and their parents/guardians who have chosen to receive education in a non-public school and/or a home school setting.

**III. GENERAL CATEGORIES AND RELATIONSHIPS**

A. Full-time Non-Public School Students.

*Definition:* Students who are provided instruction and are enrolled in an accredited non-public school.

- Students who are enrolled full-time in a non-public school during their grades 9-12 educational experience are not eligible to receive a Watertown-Mayer High School diploma.
- Full-time non-public school students are not eligible to participate in Minnesota State High School League sponsored activities unless a formal "pairing" agreement with the District is approved by the Watertown-Mayer School Board.

B. Shared Time Student.

*Definition:* A student who is enrolled part-time in a public school and the rest of the time in a non-public school or a home school.

The District will provide educational and co-curricular opportunities for shared time students according to the following guidelines:

- Shared time students must enroll in classes that generate state per pupil aid. (Under current law only academic and special education instruction

are eligible for some portion of state per pupil aid.)

- Course selection by shared time students may be limited based on such factors as capacity of a program, course or grade level.
- A shared time student wishing to receive a Watertown-Mayer High School diploma must enroll full-time at Watertown-Mayer High School for his/her senior year.
- Students wishing to enroll on a shared time basis must make application to the District prior to the beginning of each quarter. The District will notify the student if the application has been accepted.
- If home school shared time students participate in co-curricular activities which are under the control of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), the non-public home school must meet MSHSL rules for a cooperative agreement to sponsor sports with the District.

C. Full-Time Home Schooled Students

*Definition:* Students who are provided instruction at home in compliance with sections 120.101 and 120.102 of the Minnesota Statutes regarding Compulsory Instruction.

Students who choose to be full-time home educated, grades 9-12 will not receive a diploma from the Watertown-Mayer Public Schools.

High School Diploma Option:

Home educated students may earn a diploma only if they are enrolled in the Watertown-Mayer High School full time during their senior year of high school.

- Students must meet the credit and course graduation requirements of Watertown-Mayer High School.
- Students must submit home education credits to the high school prior to the beginning of the academic quarter in which they intend to enroll.
- Credits verification must come to the high school directly from the publisher and/or organization accrediting agency recognized by the State that evaluates the curriculum being used for home education.

- To participate in a Minnesota State High School League sponsored activity, the League rules state that the students must be enrolled in the public school as a full time student or the same school must be a member of the MSHSL. A "pairing" must be approved by the Watertown-Mayer School Board.

D. Transfer Students from Other Districts/States New to Watertown-Mayer with Home School Education Credits.

Watertown-Mayer High School will accept all credits and coursework earned in a home educated setting provided the credits come directly from the publisher or company whose curriculum was used and/or accrediting agency recognized by the State.

These credits will be transferred into credits on the Watertown-Mayer High School transcript and will count towards meeting the graduation requirements so long as they are deemed to be congruent with Watertown-Mayer High School courses and requirements.

**IV. POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS ENROLLMENT (PSOE)**

The Minnesota Post-Secondary Options Enrollment program allows juniors and seniors to take courses at post-secondary institutions at no cost to the student. As of 1997-98, home educated students can be listed with the state as both PSOE and Home Educated. Home Educated students may participate in the PSOE program through Watertown-Mayer High School or directly through the State and a participating college or university.

Option 1. To participate through Watertown-Mayer High School, home educated students must give up that status by enrolling as a public school student if they wish to receive a Watertown-Mayer High School diploma.

- A high school transcript will be made.
- For post-secondary admission purposes, students who were home educated prior to enrolling as public school students and have no transcript on file with Watertown-Mayer High School may submit coursework so that a transcript can be made, or students may consult with the post-secondary institution of interest to know what to submit for application and admission.
- No additional home education credits will be accepted towards graduation after the student(s) enroll to participate in the PSOE program.

Option 2. To participate directly through the state, home educated students must

work directly with a college or university and the State. No Watertown-Mayer High School diploma will be awarded in this case.

**VI. CLASS RANK AND ACADEMIC HONORS STATUS:**

To be included in class rankings and/or to earn academic honors (i.e., valedictorian, salutatorian, "high honors" graduate status, etc.) a student must have been enrolled full time at Watertown-Mayer High School during their junior and senior years of high school education. Students must also meet all graduation and credit standards set for public school students working toward a Watertown-Mayer High School diploma.

Thus, a non-public, shared-time, or home educated student who enrolls at Watertown-Mayer High School after the beginning of their junior year will not be eligible for class rank listing and/or academic honors status at Watertown-Mayer High School.

***Authority for Policy:***

Board of Education  
Independent School District No. 111

***Adopted/Revised/Reviewed:***

Adopted: April 23, 1998  
Reviewed: May 21, 2001  
Reviewed: June 24, 2019  
Revised: June 27, 2022

***Legal References:***

***Cross References:***