

In its effort to provide a rigorous expanded curriculum that will adequately prepare students for future educational and workplace endeavors, the Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) will support high school students who also wish to enroll in classes taught by a college, university, community college or other approved entity in accordance with the requirements of this policy, state law and State Board of Education policy.

A. CAREER AND COLLEGE PROMISE

The Career and College Promise program is designed to offer qualified high school students structured dual enrollment opportunities that provide both entry-level job skills as well as pathways leading to a certificate, diploma, or degree.

The board, in collaboration with local community colleges, may provide for dual enrollment of a qualified high school student in community college courses through (1) a Career and Technical Education Pathway leading to a job credential, certificate, or diploma aligned with one or more high school Career Clusters, (2) a College Transfer Pathway leading to college transfer credits, or (3) a Career and College Ready Pathway providing opportunities for college remediation.

The board may also partner with institutions of higher education to establish cooperative innovative high school programs that enable a student to concurrently obtain a high school diploma and (1) begin or complete an associate degree program, (2) master a certificate or vocational program, or (3) earn up to two years of college credit within five years. Students are eligible for these programs beginning in ninth grade.

The board will implement the Career and College Promise program in accordance with a Career and College Promise Partnership Agreement developed as required by State Board of Education Policy CACP-000 and revised annually. The superintendent shall develop any necessary procedures consistent with the partnership agreement, this policy, state law and State Board policies.

B. OTHER COLLEGE COURSES

The superintendent shall develop procedures and requirements for awarding high school credit toward graduation upon request to students who self-enroll in courses taught by a college, university, community college, or other approved entity. Credit toward graduation will be granted only for courses that are consistent with the policies and standards of the school system and State Board requirements, including the requirements of State Board of Education Policy CCRE-001, which defines “Course for Credit.” The principal must approve the course in advance. Prior to granting approval, the principal shall determine whether the course is eligible for credit toward graduation in accordance with the procedures and requirements developed by the superintendent.

The parent or guardian of the student must give permission for the student to take the course, and the student must complete any forms required by the school system.

Enrollment of a student in a course is the responsibility of the student and the student's parent or guardian. Unless otherwise provided, all special fees and charges and any special transportation needs are the responsibility of the student and the student's parent or guardian.

For a student to receive credit toward high school graduation, the school at which the course is offered must provide such essential information as is generally included in official transcripts of school records. This information must include:

- (1) a description of the content and subject matter covered by the course;
- (2) the number of clock hours of instruction in the course; and
- (3) the student's achievement or performance level in the course.

In addition, a syllabus that includes course goals, course objectives, course activities and grade requirements must be provided.

The student also must meet any other requirements established by the superintendent.

Legal References: G.S. 115C art. 16 pt. 9; 115C-36, -47; 115D 30.1, 30.10, 39.5(a); State Board of Education Policies CACP-000, CACP-001, CCRE-001, GRAD-004

Cross References: Curriculum Development (policy 3100)

Adopted: August 3, 2015

Revised: August 14, 2017 and March 15, 2018 (Legal references only); September 9, 2019; July 25, 2023; February 9, 2026

Replaces: Board Policy 4.04.30, Dual Enrollment Policy