

How will this impact my child?

When a student and family are considering the CDM process, it is critical that a member of the school CDM team or school counselor provide advisement on the long-term implications of earning CDM and beginning a path of accelerated coursework.

A plan should be developed to outline the possible course pathways a student may have the opportunity to take in high school to replace the courses, such as AP courses, NC Virtual Public School enrollment, Community College Courses, and even early graduation options.



A student who earns CDM for a particular course will be able to spend time more effectively in other challenging courses where they will learn and experience new course material.

Parents and students need to be aware of the implications this may or may not have on extra-curricular and athletic opportunities in high school and for NCAA Eligibility for college sports.

CDM courses will not earn grades or quality points towards GPA. Credit for CDM courses will be granted to meet high school graduation requirements. CDM should be pursued by students who truly want to benefit from a more challenging learning experience and move towards advanced coursework sooner during the high school years.

Unsuccessful attempts for CDM will not be recorded on the student's transcript and will not affect student grades.

Please Contact for questions:
Pam Cutshaw, AIG Coordinator
pamcutshaw@davidson.k12.nc.us
336-242-5536

If interested, students may pick up a CDM application at their school, down-load at this link: <https://bit.ly/3SEbCuL> on County School's AIG website to download an application: www.davidson.k12.nc.us

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery Process for Fall/Spring 2026-2027



NC SBE GCS-M- 001.13

What is Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM)?

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery is the process by which schools, based on a body of evidence, can award student credit in a particular course without requiring the student to complete the classroom instruction for a certain amount of seat time.

CDM is a way for **highly-advanced students** to benefit from subject-level acceleration, as opposed to whole-grade acceleration. CDM is designed for students who have mastered skills in a course without having to study or prepare to successfully complete the CDM process.

All students in North Carolina Public Schools in grades 9-12 are eligible to request an opportunity to earn credit by demonstrating mastery for available courses.

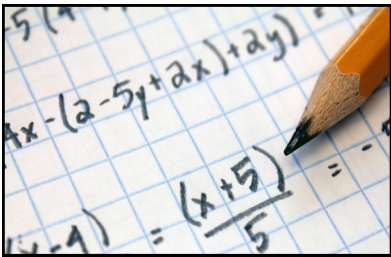
Middle school students may request an opportunity for CDM for high school courses offered in grades 6-8. In the Davidson County School district, this currently includes Math I.

Phase 1 Assessment (February/March) *Establishes a student's strong foundational understanding	Student assessment of foundational knowledge through a local exam, EOC, or CTE Post Assessment. Student must score a level 5 on an EOC, 90% on local non-EOC course exam, or a 90% on a CTE post assessment
Phase 2 Assessment (March/April) *Establishes clearly that the student should be awarded credit based on his/her ability to apply knowledge to a real-world context	Student assessment of deep understanding through an artifact. Artifact is reviewed by a content- area expert panel and scored on a set criteria. Student's artifact must meet the minimum score.
School CDM Team	Results shared with CDM Team. Results are reported

Phase 2 Appeals Process: Information will be given to families at the time they begin the process for earning CDM. Phase 1 Assessment scores cannot be appealed. Re-testing is not permitted. The appeals process will provide an opportunity for students/families to appeal committee decisions regarding the decision of earning CDM based on the Phase 2 Assessment.

Available Courses for 2026-2027

Middle School Grades 7& 8



Middle school students may have the opportunity to place out of any high school courses offered to middle school students. For rising 8th grade students this would be Math I. The CDM process will be in the spring of their 7th grade year. Rising freshmen (8th graders) can apply for the CDM process for any CDM eligible high school courses. CTE courses may not be included for 8th graders for CDM.



High School

The Credit by Demonstrated Mastery process is available for all high school courses for the 2025-2026 school year with the exception of AP courses, honors level courses, Healthful Living (PE), and certain CTE courses. Please note you cannot earn honors weight for CDM earned credits.

CTE Courses

CDM opportunities are available for some Career and Technical Education Courses (CTE) that do not require an internship or a PBL. Students who earn CDM credit for CTE courses are not currently eligible for articulated credit.



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