

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Superintendent of Schools
May 13, 2009

To: Vincent Matthews, State Administrator
Board of Education

From: Roberta Mayor, Ed.D., Interim Superintendent
Brad Stam, Chief Academic Officer

Recommended Policy Change for Translation of Current Enrollment

Problem:

District practice in translating community college units into high school credits varies throughout the district. Some schools award one year of high school credit (10 credits) for a 3-unit community college course, while others award only one semester (5 credits) for the same course. Counselors at many schools cite a memorandum from an Oakland school counselor from 1994 as the source of direction to award only 5 credits (see attached). Clearly, this practice results in inequity for OUSD students; while some are only required to take one community college course in Japanese to meet the district foreign language requirement, for instance, another would be required to take two courses.

Though there is no current board policy or administrative regulation dictating current practice, education allows districts to create policy. Education code 48800 (C) states: "A pupil shall receive credit for community college courses that he or she completes at the level determined appropriate by the school district and community college district governing boards."

In an email correspondence from Linda Berry, Vice President of Instruction for Merritt College, she states "It is up to the high school as to what they do with those credits."

Recommendation:

Board Policy 6146.11, Alternative Credits Toward Graduation, should be amended to include the following language (see attached revision):

Credit for high school and/or college courses may be awarded to students who successfully complete approved courses through accredited institutions of higher learning. Students shall receive 3.3 high school credits for each semester college unit submitted on an official college transcript.

Rationale for credit translation:

University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) accept community college courses as equivalent to one year of high school study. For instance, if a student completes a semester course of Japanese at community college, that course is counted the same as a year-long high school world language course. By offering fewer credits than UC and CSU, we are presenting unnecessary hardships for our students who wish to fulfill both graduation requirements and UC/CSU eligibility requirements by taking community college courses.

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

BP 6146.11
Instruction

Alternative Credits Toward Graduation

In order to meet individual student needs and encourage all students to complete their high school education, the Governing Board desires to provide flexibility in the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

As an alternative to completing the course requirements for high school graduation, students may fulfill one or more of the course requirements through:

1. Practical demonstration of skills and competencies
2. Supervised work experience up to 40 credits in accordance with 5 CCR 1635, or other outside school experience
3. Independent study
4. Credit earned at a postsecondary institution. **Credit for high school and/or college courses may be awarded to students who successfully complete approved courses through accredited institutions of higher learning. Students shall receive 3.3 high school credits for each semester college unit submitted on an official college transcript.**
5. Correspondence instruction from a California university and/or other California Department of Education entities (such as Cyber High) in subjects included within or related to the course of study offered in the school district.
6. Courses earned in an Adult Education Program
7. Military service and training in accordance with 5 CCR 1634

The district shall accept for credit any coursework satisfactorily completed by students while detained in a juvenile court school or county or state-operated institution. District students who successfully complete district graduation requirements while so detained shall receive a diploma from the school they last attended. (Education Code 48645.5)

Alternative means to complete the Physical Education graduation requirements:

1. Students may receive physical education credit for participation in district interscholastic athletic programs carried on wholly or partially after regular school hours when such participation entails a comparable amount of time and physical activity. Students using interscholastic athletics participation to fulfill physical education requirements may be graded on this participation, provided that a teacher credentialed to teach physical education supervises this participation and assigns the grade. Otherwise the student will receive a Pass/Fail grade.
2. Students may receive credit for Physical Education by completing a course of study at a post secondary institution.
3. Students may receive credit for Physical Education by completing an independent study program approved by the principal.
4. A principal shall have wide discretion to define activities that shall meet the physical education graduation requirement.
5. In rare circumstances, a principal may approve physical education credit for a student that possesses exceptional talent or ability far beyond that of his/her peers in the area of physical education activities such as, but not limited to: gold, gymnastics, skating, swimming, and tennis. Such talent or ability shall be perfected or extended in an off-campus activity under the supervision of a recognized authority. Evidence of a student' talent or ability is clearly identified by the greater community.

Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement

The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether a student has satisfactorily met course requirements through any of the above alternative means.

7/14/04; 5/13/09A

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy

BP 6146.11
Instruction

Alternative Credits Toward Graduation

In order to meet individual student needs and encourage all students to complete their high school education, the Governing Board desires to provide flexibility in the completion of prescribed courses in accordance with law.

As an alternative to completing the course requirements for high school graduation, students may fulfill one or more of the course requirements through:

1. Practical demonstration of skills and competencies
2. Supervised work experience up to 40 credits in accordance with 5 CCR 1635, or other outside school experience
3. Independent study
4. Credit earned at a postsecondary institution. **Credit for high school and/or college courses may be awarded to students who successfully complete approved courses through accredited institutions of higher learning. Students shall receive 3.3 high school credits for each semester college unit submitted on an official college transcript. (For example, Math 202 Geometry at Merritt College provides 3 college units. To calculate the number of high school credits, multiply this by 3.3 for a total of 10 credits for the OUSD transcript. All calculations are rounded to the nearest whole number for assigning credit on transcripts.)**
5. Correspondence instruction from a California university and/or other California Department of Education entities (such as Cyber High) in subjects included within or related to the course of study offered in the school district.
6. Courses earned in an Adult Education Program
7. Military service and training in accordance with 5 CCR 1634

The district shall accept for credit any coursework satisfactorily completed by students while detained in a juvenile court school or county or state-operated institution. District students who successfully complete district graduation requirements while so detained

shall receive a diploma from the school they last attended. (Education Code 48645.5)

Alternative means to complete the Physical Education graduation requirements:

1. Students may receive physical education credit for participation in district interscholastic athletic programs carried on wholly or partially after regular school hours when such participation entails a comparable amount of time and physical activity. Students using interscholastic athletics participation to fulfill physical education requirements may be graded on this participation, provided that a teacher credentialed to teach physical education supervises this participation and assigns the grade. Otherwise the student will receive a Pass/Fail grade.
2. Students may receive credit for Physical Education by completing a course of study at a post secondary institution.
3. Students may receive credit for Physical Education by completing an independent study program approved by the principal.
4. A principal shall have wide discretion to define activities that shall meet the physical education graduation requirement.
5. In rare circumstances, a principal may approve physical education credit for a student that possesses exceptional talent or ability far beyond that of his/her peers in the area of physical education activities such as, but not limited to: gold, gymnastics, skating, swimming, and tennis. Such talent or ability shall be perfected or extended in an off-campus activity under the supervision of a recognized authority. Evidence of a student' talent or ability is clearly identified by the greater community.

Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement

The Superintendent or designee shall determine whether a student has satisfactorily met course requirements through any of the above alternative means.

7/14/04; 5/13/09A