

What is Credit Flexibility?

The credit flexibility initiative is part of a statewide effort to increase learning and engagement and help students' graduate ready for success in college and careers.

In addition to earning credit by successfully completing traditional courses, the credit flexibility program provides new options for students including:

- Earning credit by demonstrating mastery of the essential content of a traditional course by "testing out," presenting a portfolio documenting mastery, or a combination of these. If choosing this option, students need to test-out the quarter before the course is offered.
- Successfully completing a mentorship, internship, educational travel, or service learning program aligned to the academic curriculum.
- Successfully completing an online course or academic summer or after-school program aligned to the school curriculum.
- Successfully combining any of the options above as well as units of traditional courses.

Credit flexibility is another example of how our district is working to prepare students for the 21st Century by striving to address their unique needs and talents.

Additional Information

Additional details and materials related to credit flexibility are available on the high school's credit flexibility webpage at: <http://www.pikectc.org/>

Additional resources include the following:

Board of Education credit flexibility policy

Credit Flex Proposal Cover Page (form A)

Credit by Educational Options Proposal Form (form B)

Credit by Demonstration of Mastery Proposal Form (form C)

Credit Flexibility Appeals Process (form D)

Online and community-based learning options developed or sponsored by the district

Credit flexibility information for student athletes (sports eligibility requirements)

This program has been developed in cooperation with the
Ross-Pike Educational Service District

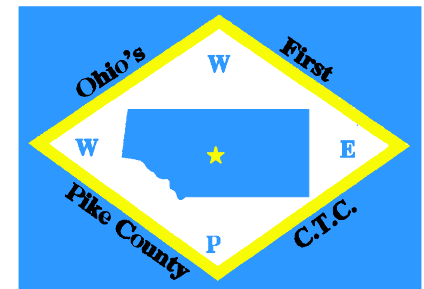
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CREDIT FLEXIBILITY: A Guide for Students and Families



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What Does It Mean?

Benefits to Students

The flexible routes to accumulating high school credit will make it possible for students to own and customize learning through increased opportunities for real-world experiences that relate to their interests and career aspirations.

Students may earn credits by:

- Completing Coursework;
- Testing out of or demonstrating mastery of course content; or
- Pursuing one or more “educational options” (for example, distance learning, educational travel, independent study, an internship, music, arts, after-school/tutorial program, community service or other engagement projects).

Credit flexibility allows:

- Access to more learning resources;
- Customization around individual student needs; and
- Use of multiple measures of learning

For students in grades 7 and/or 8 to access high school credits via Credit Flex, they must be classified as “accelerated” under the school district acceleration policy (with high school status).

Earning Credit By Demonstrating Mastery

Students may earn high school credit by demonstrating mastery of essential content and skills addressed in any traditional high school course offered by the district.

Demonstrations of mastery may involve completing a comprehensive examination, submitting a portfolio of work, or a combination of these. For credit in the arts, demonstrations of mastery may also include performances or exhibitions.

When students request the opportunity to earn credit for completing the content of a course offered by the district, the district will provide to the student information about its requirements, methods to be used for assessing mastery, and grading criteria.

The district will also work with the student to schedule times for the student to participate in testing and/or present his or her portfolio.

Typically, the district will use portions of exams developed for a traditional course (e.g. mid-term and final exams) or a standardized test (such as an AP test, achievement test, or end-of-course exam) and/or a portfolio evaluation rubric. If a student completes the assessment process prior to the start of a term, he or she will be given the opportunity to accept the grade earned based on this process or enroll in the equivalent traditional course (final grade will be based on district policy).

While the district will make every effort to minimize costs, students’ families may be asked to contribute to the cost of special instructional fees. Assessments will be administered free of charge.

Earning Credit Through “Educational Options”

Students may earn high school credit by successfully completing academically-focused educational options, which may include the following:

- Internships and mentorships with businesses and community organizations,
- Service learning programs,
- Online programs,
- Guided “independent study” experiences,
- Educational travel programs.

Students will propose their own “educational options plans.” This option may be useful when a student wishes to pursue an interest in a specialized topic, or when a student has a unique opportunity to participate in a special program outside the school (e.g. study abroad, summer programs, or online programs not offered directly by the district.)

Students must obtain prior approval of student-proposed educational options plans to be eligible for credit. Students considering this option should obtain a Credit by Educational Options Proposal Packet from the guidance office and submit it at least 20 school days prior to the start of the quarter or semester during which he or she plans to participate.

Students’ families may be asked to contribute to the cost of educational options plans. (Check with the district designated personnel regarding cost.)