

RESCIND BOARD REPORT 99-0127-PO2 AND ADOPT POLICY FOR AWARDING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT AND PLACEMENT FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSES TAKEN IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

Rescind Board Report 99-0127-PO2 and adopt a policy to grant credit to eligible elementary students enrolled in high school level courses at the elementary schools.

DESCRIPTION:

At present a policy exists only for courses taken at regional elementary gifted center schools (Board Report 99-0127-PO2). A system-wide policy is needed to grant high school credit to all elementary school students who are taking high school-level courses. This policy will allow credit and appropriate placement at the high school level for elementary school students who have demonstrated proficiency and competency in ninth-grade level courses. This credit will be recognized by all Chicago Public High Schools.

Elementary school students who are currently enrolled in ninth-grade high school level courses and taught by appropriately endorsed teachers will be eligible to sit for the Chicago Academic Standards Exams (CASE) or be evaluated in an approved manner for content areas where the CASE exam does not apply to earn high school credit.

The elementary school must meet the following minimum requirements for each class taught:

- 1.) A teacher should hold a current high school certificate endorsed in the subject to be taught. A teacher holding a K-9 Certificate endorsed in the content area of the course being taught and having taken at least one college level course in that content area can teach the course if said teacher is a regular participant in a professional development program that will lead to obtaining 6-12 certification with a specific endorsement.
- 2.) The course follows the approved high school level curriculum and/or Program of Study approved by the Department of Curriculum.
- 3.) The principal and teacher must articulate with a consulting high school of their choice and the content area department of the same subject being taught.
- 4.) For each high school class offered in the elementary school, the elementary school principal must complete an application for approval by the Office of High School Development in collaboration with the Office of Accountability and the Office of Curriculum and Instruction.

Where applicable, the CASE exam will be given to students for the core content area courses. For content areas where the CASE exam does not apply, an appropriate form of evaluation will be implemented. Student prerequisites to taking these examinations or being evaluated will include: principal recommendation; a grade of C or higher for the duration of the class; maintaining attendance that exceeds the system wide average; completion of all necessary course requirements including daily class assignments and homework; and a minimum successful score on the CASE exam as required of high school students where applicable. Once all pre-qualifications are determined, students will be eligible to earn up to four credits toward high school graduation. These credits will

be included on the student's high school transcript. These credits will be included in the determination of the student's high school grade point average. Students may earn no more than one credit in a content area.

The local elementary school principal and the consulting high school department, with the assistance of the Office of High School Development, will ensure the quality and the integrity of these classes by assuring that course content meets specifications as outlined by the Illinois State Board of Education, the Chicago Academic Standards and the Program of Study. All science courses offered must meet laboratory requirements. This policy will apply to all elementary programs granting high school credit.

EDUCATIONAL IMPACT:

The establishment of this policy is consistent with the philosophy of the Design for High Schools, including the accelerated model of high school graduation. This policy will more accurately place our elementary students in appropriately challenging high school courses. Thus, the matriculation into high school for students having already completed high school course work and credit will be a seamless transition. This policy will enable these students to move more quickly through the high school requirements, further enabling them to gain college credit through our College Bridge program.

The Office of High School Development will supervise an ongoing review of this program to consider expansion and/or modification after the initial year.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: Not applicable

FINANCIAL: Implementation of this policy will involve no additional cost to the Board.

Approved for Consideration:


Cozette Buckney
Chief Education Officer

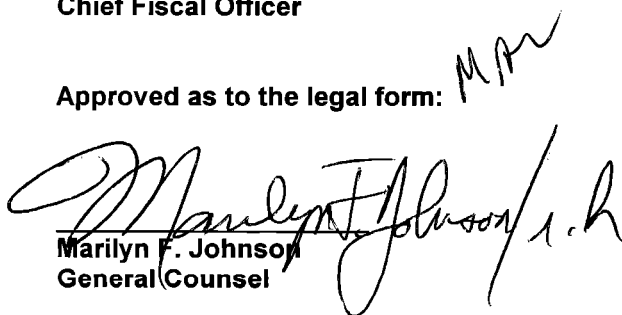
Respectfully Submitted:


Paul Vallas
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:


Kenneth C. Gotsch
Chief Fiscal Officer

Approved as to the legal form:


Marilyn F. Johnson
General Counsel