

**RESCIND BOARD REPORT 01-0124-PO1  
AND ADOPT A NEW POLICY FOR AWARDING HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT AND PLACEMENT  
FOR HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSES TAKEN IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:**

That the Board adopt a new policy for Awarding High School Credit and Placement for High School Level Courses Taken in Elementary Schools.

**PURPOSE:** This policy will allow system wide credit and appropriate placement at the high school level for elementary school students who have demonstrated proficiency and competency in ninth-grade level courses.

**POLICY TEXT:**

**INTRODUCTION:** 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 school requirements, further enabling them to gain college credit through our college Bridge program. The Board will offer these courses in a manner that will allow all qualifying students who wish to take such courses access to them.

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

**I. Requirements for Offering a High School Credit Course in Elementary School**

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

- A. A teacher must hold a current high school certificate endorsed in the subject taught. The course follows the approved high school level curriculum and/or Program of Study approved by the Office of Standards Based Instruction.
- B. The principal and teacher must consult with the Office of Standards Based Instruction for guidance when developing the course curriculum for the subject being taught.
- C. 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 Programs in collaboration with Office of Standards Based Instruction.

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

**II. Student Credit or Placement for Successful Completion of High School Level Courses**

Elementary school students who are enrolled in high school level courses may elect to either obtain high school credit for their coursework, obtain placement in advanced high school courses, or obtain both credit and placement in advanced high school courses. All elementary school students who wish to obtain credit or wish to be placed in advanced level high school courses for core subjects, as defined in the High School Promotion Policy, must successfully complete examinations developed by the course instructor. Student prerequisites to taking these examinations or being evaluated will include: principal

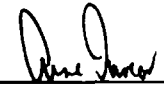
recommendation; a grade of C or higher for the duration of the class; maintaining attendance that exceeds the system wide average; completion of all necessary course requirements including daily class assignments and homework.

- A. Students who elect to obtain high school credit for advanced coursework, will be eligible to earn up to four credits toward high school graduation provided the student has met all of the prerequisites and successfully completed the aforementioned examination. Students who meet these requirements will receive credit for completion of the regular level high school course, and will be placed in the regular level high school course which sequentially follows the course in the curriculum. Students wishing to be placed in honors level classes must complete a placement exam at the receiving high school. 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.
  
- B. Students who elect to obtain only placement in advanced high school courses will not receive credit for advanced coursework completed at the elementary school level. The student's grades will not be included in the determination of the student's high school grade point average, and the coursework will not be included on the student's transcript. Students who elect only to obtain placement in advanced high school courses will be required to take a placement examination in the content area for which they are seeking such placement before entering their receiving high school. The placement examination will be administered by the receiving high school, and used to determine the proper academic placement for the student.

**Approved for Consideration:**


  
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**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
**Chief Education Officer**

**Approved**

  
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**Arne Duncan**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**Noted:**

  
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**John Maiorca**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

**Approved as to Legal Form** 

  
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**Ruth Moscovitch**  
**General Counsel**