



LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

PENDING POLICY IMBD READING SCHEDULE

1 st Reading	February 20, 2018
2 nd Reading	March 20, 2018
3 rd Reading	April 17, 2018



Londonderry School District
Office of Assistant Superintendent

"Giving Wings to Children's Dreams"

Memo

To: Scott Laliberte
From: Dan Black
Date: March 15, 2018
Re: Second Reading on Policy IMBD – High School Credit for 7th/ 8th Grade Coursework

I have received no further feedback from staff or our leadership team from either the Middle School nor the High School on the second reading of potential new policy, **IMBD – High School Credit for 7th / 8th Grade Coursework**.

However, I have included two additional lines for the School Board to consider.

In the actual policy, I included the following line: “The School Board promotes this policy to allow for middle school students to take advanced coursework, not increase the number of students applying for early graduation in high school.” My intention was to get ahead of any unintended consequences of this new school board policy. We believe most students would take advanced coursework in middle school, so that they could take more advanced coursework in high school. That is why we are supportive of this policy. I thought it could be good to make it clear we are not promoting early graduation with this new policy.

After following up with one School Board Member after the last meeting, I also included the following line to the regulations for the policy: “The middle school and high school will create clear benchmarks to help with student placement in high school so that all students are properly challenged in their high school coursework.” The intention of this additional line is to ensure all the advanced coursework at the middle school does not place students who barely pass at the middle school level into a more advanced level at the high school that they might not be ready for.

Nothing in the policy nor regulation is meant to speak to specific courses and departments, but provide general guidelines for all courses in the future. Again, Algebra I is ready for next fall in terms of meeting all the requirements now in the policy and regulations. This has been an easy process because the work around alignment between the middle school and high school has been going on for the last five years.

We still intend to have French I and Spanish I ready for the 2019-2020 school year, but there is more work to do around alignment. We have to resolve the similarities and differences

between the 1 year and 2 year course at the middle school and make sure they are all aligned to what happens in Spanish I and French I at the high school. The timeline to get all those courses aligned would be by December 2018 when we are presenting the program of studies next year for the middle school and high school. Based on the current draft policy, during that timeline, staff and administration need to agree in both buildings, along with the Superintendent's office to build consensus around the course competencies and assessments used.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR 7TH/8TH GRADE COURSEWORK

Students in 7th or 8th grade may take advanced courses and apply the credit of those courses toward high school graduation competencies, provided the course demonstrates content requirements consistent with related high school courses and the student achieves satisfactory standards of performance. School Board policies relative to assessment, mastery and competency shall apply. ***The School Board promotes this policy to allow for middle school students to take advanced coursework, not increase the number of students applying for early graduation in high school.***

The high school and middle school principals shall work together yearly to approve such course work and credit prior to the student enrolling in the class in order for such credit to be applied toward high school graduation.

Legal References:

Ed 306.26(f), Granting High School Credit for 7th/8th Grade Coursework (until July 1, 2017)

Ed 306.261(e), Granting High School Credit for 7th/8th Grade Coursework (after July 1, 2017)

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HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR 7TH/8TH GRADE COURSEWORK

Any courses eligible for 7th and 8th grade students to earn high school credit should be agreed upon between the leadership of both the middle school, high school, and the Superintendent's office prior to the yearly presentation of the Middle School Program of Studies.

To be eligible to earn high school credit towards graduation, the leadership of the middle school and high school, in coordination with the Superintendent's office, will determine the level of competency needed to achieve that credit based on course assessments that are common to that course in both buildings. *The middle school and high school will create clear benchmarks to help with student placement in high school so that all students are properly challenged in their high school coursework.*

For a student that earns credit in their 7th and/or 8th grade year for high school graduation, they will be granted a "passing" grade only on their high school transcript.

Students in 7th and/or 8th grade, who wish to earn credit for high school through "extended learning opportunities" and/or "virtual/online" classes, must first ensure those classes follow the requirements outlined in School Board Policy INAA Extended Learning Opportunities Virtual/Online Education.

Any student that transfers from out of district will be subject to a standard review by the Londonderry High School Guidance Department to determine if they are eligible to be awarded credit for their prior coursework, including advanced courses they took while in middle school.

Legal References:

Ed 306.26(f), Granting High School Credit for 7th/8th Grade Coursework (until July 1, 2017)

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