



LONDONDERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**PENDING POLICY IMBD READING SCHEDULE**

1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	February 20, 2018
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	March 20, 2018
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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:** April 6, 2018  
**Re:** Third Reading of Policy IMBD – High School Credit for 7<sup>th</sup>/ 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coursework

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I have received no further feedback from staff or our leadership team from either the Middle School nor the High School on the third reading of potential new policy, IMBD – High School Credit for 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Coursework. *There are no changes between the language in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of the policy.*

Before the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, we put in additional clarification around benchmarks and course placement at the high school. In working with the foreign language department recently on the issue, here are sample benchmarks that help guide earning credit, grades at Londonderry Middle School as well as placement at Londonderry High School that the School Board was looking for:

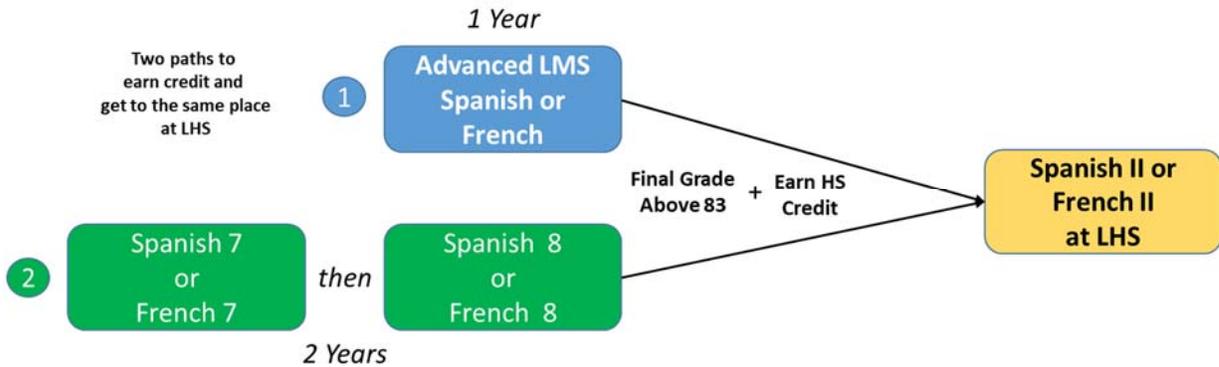
In the Londonderry Middle School Foreign Spanish classes:

- A final grade **above an 83** will result in the student **earning** high school credit in foreign language and placement in Spanish IIA.
- A final grade between a 70 and 82 will result in a student passing their LMS class, **not earn credit** because their competency was not deemed strong enough, but students could be placed in Spanish IIB because they have a stronger skill set than students entering Spanish I at LHS.
- A final grade below a 70 means they would not pass their LMS classes, not earn credit, and would be placed in Spanish I at LHS.

I chose not to include specific benchmarks of any classes in the regulations to Policy IMBD because this would create a very large document in time as more and more classes between LMS and LHS are aligned for earning credit. However, we would store and share these benchmarks internally between LMS and LHS to maintain that consistency.

Again, the Algebra I class at LMS is ready to use this policy for students to earn credit next school year in 2018-19.

After further discussions with the foreign language departments, at both LMS and LHS, we are expanding the options for students to earn credit. In time, we want to have students earn credit at LMS if they take a 2-year foreign language course, Spanish 7/8 or French 7/8. We also want to create that additional and advanced 1-year class for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in Spanish or French and also have them earn credit. See the graphic below to understand both options.



The above plan to create alignment between two paths at the middle school and the classes at the high school is more complex than our original plan so we will need more time to reach that point. The administration at LMS is still figuring out the implications of this decision for next year's course offerings.

## HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR 7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup> 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 7<sup>TH</sup>/8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSEWORK

Any courses eligible for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade year for high school graduation, they will be granted a "passing" grade only on their high school transcript.

Students in 7<sup>th</sup> and/or 8<sup>th</sup> 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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