

7.11 EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

Educational options may provide an opportunity for students to learn in an independent or individual setting, and to study or work with recognized experts in specific fields, subject to school and parental approval. Educational options may be provided through a variety of methods such as independent study, tutoring, travel, mentoring, correspondence courses, virtual learning, and distance learning.

Guidelines for Use of Educational Options

Generally, educational options may be used to meet specific needs of individual students requiring remediation or enrichment activities under unusual circumstances and in addition to, or in special cases, in place of the regular school offerings, or to meet unusual educational needs of students identified as gifted. In the area of enrichment and remediation, objectives and activities must be related to adopted courses of study. Educational options shall not compete with courses offered within the regular education program unless such courses are not available for the student when needed or are not being taken for credit.

All educational options require:

- A. Approval of the Superintendent or designee.
- B. The parent(s) must provide written approval for students under eighteen years of age. A copy of the written approval shall be maintained in the school files. Students eighteen years of age or older must submit a written request to participate, which shall be kept on file.
- C. Instructional plan based on individual student needs approved and filed prior to participation for credit/promotion purposes, which shall include:
 1. Instructional objectives that align with the District's curriculum requirements;
 2. Instructional activities;
 3. Materials/resources;
 4. Learning environments;
 5. Evaluation methods and criteria;
 6. Designation of a credentialed teacher responsible for providing instruction or evaluating pupil performance.
- D. Credit Issuance

1. A maximum of six credits required for graduation may be earned through educational options.
2. No more than four credits of the specific areas required for graduation may be earned through educational options. The specific areas are English, health, mathematics, physical education, science, and social studies.
3. Students must have entered high school to receive high school credit toward graduation for participation in approved educational options. Participation in approved educational options prior to high school entrance may be used for promotion purposes if time requirements are met, quality of student performance relative to the objectives of the option is sufficient, and the District has designated the option for use at the K-8 level.
4. Students and parents have been notified through student handbooks that credit/promotion consideration may be given for those educational options which have been approved by the Board of Education.