

## What is Credit Flexibility?

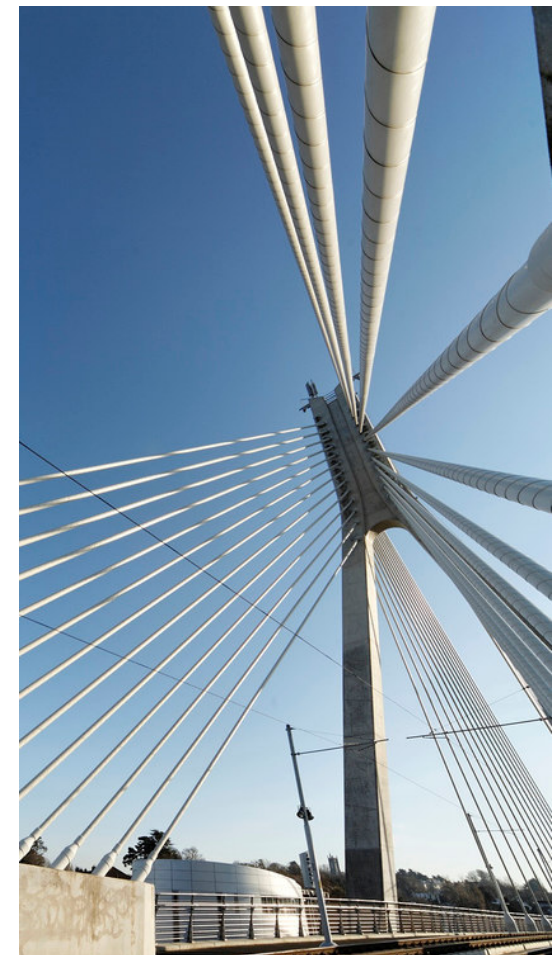
The credit flexibility initiative is part of a statewide effort to increase learning and engagement and help students graduate ready for success in college and careers.

In addition to earning credit by successfully completing traditional courses, the credit flexibility program provides new options for students including:

- Earning credit by demonstrating mastery of the essential content of a traditional course by “testing out,” presenting a portfolio documenting mastery, or a combination of these.
- Successfully completing a mentorship, internship, educational travel, or service learning program aligned to the academic curriculum.
- Successfully completing an online course or academic summer or after-school program aligned to the school curriculum.
- Successfully completing a “hybrid” learning experience that may combine any of the options above as well as units of traditional courses.

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# Credit Flexibility: a Guide for Students and Families



# Credit Flexibility options

## Earning Credit By Demonstrating Mastery

Students may earn high school credit by demonstrating mastery of essential content and skills addressed in any traditional high school course offered by the district.

Demonstrations of mastery may involve completing a comprehensive examination, submitting a portfolio of work, or a combination of these. For credit in the arts, demonstrations of mastery may also include performances or exhibitions.

When students request the opportunity to earn credit for completing the content of a course offered by the district, the district will provide to the student information about its requirements, methods to be used for assessing mastery, and grading criteria.

The district will also work with the student to schedule times for the student to participate in testing and/or present his or her portfolio.

Typically, the district will use portions of exams developed for a traditional course (e.g. mid-term and final exams) or a standardized test (such as an AP test, achievement test, or end-of-course exam) and/or a portfolio evaluation rubric. If a student completes the assessment process prior to the start of a term, he or she will be given the opportunity to accept the grade earned based on this process or turn down the grade and enroll in the equivalent traditional course.

While the district will make every

## Earning Credit Through "Educational Options"

Students may earn high school credit by successfully completing academically-focused educational options, which may include:

- Internships and mentorships with businesses and community organizations;
- Service learning programs;
- Online programs;
- Guided "independent study" experiences, and;
- Educational travel programs.

The district will offer a variety of pre-designed educational options opportunities in which any qualified student may enroll.

Students may also propose their own "educational options plans." This option may be useful when a student wishes to pursue an interest in a specialized topic, or when a student has a unique opportunity to participate in a special program outside the school (e.g. study abroad, summer programs, or online programs not offered directly by the district.)

Students must obtain prior approval of student-proposed educational options plans to be eligible for credit. Students considering this option should obtain an educational option plan proposal packet from the high school guidance office and submit it at **least X days** prior to the start of the semester during which he or she plans to participate.

Most district-developed educational options will be offered free of charge. However, students' families may be asked to contribute to the

## Appeals

The district's credit flexibility policy provides students the right to appeal decisions regarding credit flexibility, including decisions about approval of educational options plans and criteria established for determining credit and grades. State law also provides families the opportunity to appeal the district's final decision to the Ohio Department of Education.

Students who wish to submit an appeal must do so within **X days** of the decision he or she is appealing. Information about

**Insert district logo / telephone contact**

### Additional Information

Additional details and materials related to credit flexibility are available on the high school's credit flexibility webpage at: **(INSERT URL)**

Additional resources include:

Board of Education credit flexibility policy

Educational option proposal form

Intent to test out form

Credit flexibility appeals form

Online and community-based learning options developed or sponsored by the district

Credit flexibility information for

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