



## **Board Policy**

**6.10.100**

### **High School Credit Earned Prior to Ninth Grade**

The purpose of this policy is to define how students can earn high school credit prior to Ninth Grade. High school credit is granted for equal performance, based on the level and quality of academic achievement rather than the grade level of the student. The policy includes specific considerations for students enrolled in Portland Public Schools and students who are transferring into Portland Public Schools.

- (1) For students already enrolled in middle grades in Portland Public Schools, the Superintendent or their designee will identify which Portland Public School Pre-Ninth Grade courses are eligible for high school credit.
  - (a) Any Portland Public School student who completes an approved high-school level course with a grade "C" or better shall be granted high school credit for that course.
  - (b) Granting high school credit allows students to participate in more advanced classes in their high school years and will not compel students to graduate early.
  - (c) Approved high-school level courses in middle school are aligned to state standards and have content that matches or exceeds equivalent high school courses. Eligible courses include:
    - (A) Designated high school courses taken at a Portland Public School high school with a high school teacher;
    - (B) Designated PPS middle school courses equivalent to high school courses, as determined by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, according to the following criteria:
      - Course content, goals and syllabus aligned to high school program;
      - Textbooks and instructional materials aligned with a high school program;
      - Assessments, assessment criteria, and methods aligned with high school program;
      - Time allotment equivalent to a high school program;
      - Facilities, supplies, and equipment appropriate for meeting course goals; and
      - Staff qualifications and credentials equivalent to a high school program.

When students transfer to Portland Public Schools from another school (e.g., a charter school) or school district, they must produce a transcript from an accredited high school in order for the high-school level credit to be transferred.

- (2) When students transfer to Portland Public Schools from another country, they must submit all relevant school records in order to initiate a course review process to assess transfer of credits.
- (3) Procedures for designating approved courses within Portland Public Schools, for recording credits earned on the student's permanent school record, and transferring credits to the student's permanent high school record and transcript will be established through administrative directive. A list of approved courses by school can be found here: [Approved Middle School Courses](#)
- (4) Procedures for identifying individual students who would benefit from promotion into a higher level class can be found in the Promotion and Retention of Students Policy 4.20.010-P

Legal References:

History: Adpt 5/24/99, BA 0114, Rpl Admin Reg 6.10.100 [Iss 4/77, Amd 5/81],10/24