

Early HS Credit Guidelines

POLICY: Other Credit Options: Early High School Credit AR6146.2(g)

Middle school students may earn high school credit toward graduation if the class being taught meets the following criteria:

- Courses must be approved and included in the high school Program of Studies.
 - The course has the same course title, course number, and curriculum as the high school course.
 - The course is equivalent in length, e.g., semester or year, as the high school.
 - Approved courses must be taught by a certified teacher.
 - The grade earned will be used on high school transcripts for middle school students who demonstrate proficiency with the course content by earning a passing grade.
 - Proficiency will be defined as earning a passing grade for one or both semesters.
 - Students not earning credit will have no reflection of the course-work on their high school transcript.
 - Parents have the option to remove the credit and letter grade or "P" marking from the high school transcript.
 - If the letter grade or course negatively impacts the high school student who accelerated in middle school, the course/grade may be deleted if not needed to satisfy current graduation requirements, or the grade changed to a P (which has zero impact on GPA). This type of change to the high school transcript must be made prior to the beginning of the senior year.
 - Counselors will need to coordinate with the Office of Instruction to process the transcript modification.
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With the prior approval of the middle school principal and counselor, as well as a parent/guardian, a middle school student may receive high school credit for college course work or distance delivery courses as per AR 6146.2 (a) and AR 6146.2 (b).

1. Early high school credit may be used for specific curriculum credit and for elective credit.
2. Early high school credits may fulfill specific curriculum credit or elective credit for graduation; however, they may not fulfill minimum requirements for some colleges, NCAA qualifications, scholarships and military programs.
3. The Early High School Credit Policy does not affect the record of letter grades (A-F) earned and given on grade reports in middle school.
- 4 The early high school credit will not appear on a student's transcript until the student enrolls and attends a high school **in the MSBSD**.

Note: At MSC, we want to offer any learning opportunity that benefits students and allows them to progress in their education at a pace and level of rigor that best meets their needs. While we don't want to rush any student out of childhood, we also recognize that many are ready to begin earning HS credits and have enrolled at MCS to take advantage of such opportunities.

The options below should serve as the guidelines to follow when considering early HS credit. As always, we will continue to personalize and make exceptions for extraordinary circumstances and students.

6th Graders:

- Algebra, Geometry (using approved curriculum)

7th Graders:

- Algebra, Geometry
- English 1 & 2
- World Language
- Civics
- Health
- PE (if competitive at High School level)

8th Graders:

- Any core credit that follows the Common Pathways (no "core elective credits" unless the core classes have been completed).
- Any elective credit

**For a self-created elective credit, the *Independent Elective Credit Packet* should be advisor-approved and appropriately followed.

**If using AGS Curriculum, maximum grade is a B unless student (1) earns an A average on chapter/unit tests AND (2) earns an A on MSC-proctored semester final or capstone project.

Ongoing Guiding Questions:

- What is the purpose of early high school credit?
- In what situations should we give students early high school credit?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of early high school credit?
- Are our kids better prepared for post-secondary life due to taking early HS credit? Why?