

Independence School District

Non-Traditional Classes

In addition to regular classroom-based instruction, Independence students may earn credit through a variety of other options. Non-traditional classes include independent study, project circuit courses, online coursework, Early College Credit Program, and Start College Now (Policy 343.42) or the use of other instructional technologies. Courses offered by agencies and institutions authorized and approved by the Independence School District will be accepted for credit toward Independence School District graduation

Approved December 4, 2013

Revised June 3, 2015

Revised September 5, 2018

Advanced Placement classes

Students may take approved Advanced Placement classes at no additional fee if the student meets the majority of the following criteria and/or the criteria established by the accrediting institution:

- GPA of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale in the last three semesters of coursework in the department in which an AP Class is being requested.
- Teacher recommendation in the department in which an AP class is being requested.
- Meets the benchmark in the ACT suite (either in-house or actual) for the subject area.

If a student chooses to take the optional AP exam for possible college credit, the student will assume the cost. If the student scores three (3) or better on the AP exam, the school will reimburse the cost of the exam.

Final grades for AP classes will be reported on the student's official transcript and counted towards graduation.

Online Course Guidelines

Students applying for permission to take an online or virtual course shall complete any prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in a non-traditional classroom environment.

Students taking approved online courses must be enrolled in the district and must take the courses during the regular school day at the school site. Course grades are determined by the online teacher, accepted by the district, and incorporated into the student's GPA. If only a percentage is given, that percentage will be converted to a letter grade using the district's high school grading scale.

Guidelines for student participation in online courses include, but are not limited to the following:

requirements.

Credit through non-traditional classes such as Online, Project Circuit, Advanced Placement, and Out of District may be earned in any of the following circumstances:

- 1) the course is not offered at resident high school.
- 2) the principal, with agreement from the student, teachers, and parent/guardian, determines that the student would benefit from a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
- 3) although the course is offered by the district school, the student will not be able to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict or special circumstance.

Approved courses must:

- 1) align with state and local standards,
- 2) be delivered by staff licensed in the state where the course originates, and
- 3) contain provisions for feedback and monitoring of student progress.

No more than two (2) post secondary classes and/or two (2) high school credits may be earned during June, July, and August. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the high school principal. Students are still required to take the minimum number of credits as indicated by the High School

- College-bound students in need of advanced or specialized coursework
- Credit-deficient students needing specific courses in order to graduate
- Students wanting to improve their skills in specific subject areas
- Gifted or advanced students who want expanded educational offerings
- Students with scheduling conflicts
- Homebound students
- Students who may not otherwise have a particular offering available.

The school will provide the hardware and software needed for a student to take a virtual course on school premises. The district does not provide equipment for the home instruction nor pay for home Internet access or technical assistance.

The student is required to abide by copyright and license agreements.

To be approved, the course work must be from an approved vendor. Course objectives must be reviewed and deemed appropriate by the principal.

Without express written permission by the school counselor or school principal, a student must complete any online course work within one calendar week of the end of the Independence School District semester(s). If they fail to complete within the defined time, the grade will be calculated based on the work done to the end of the defined time.

Out-of-District Courses

High school students may earn credit for academic coursework taken at a non-resident high school for purposes of obtaining elective credit not available at IHS, or in the case of a scheduling conflict, a required course.

requirements.

Credit through non-traditional classes such as Online, Project Circuit, Advanced Placement, and Out of District may be earned in any of the following circumstances:

- 1) the course is not offered at resident high school.
- 2) the principal, with agreement from the student, teachers, and parent/guardian, determines that the student would benefit from a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
- 3) although the course is offered by the district school, the student will not be able to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict or special circumstance.

Approved courses must:

- 1) align with state and local standards,
- 2) be delivered by staff licensed in the state where the course originates, and
- 3) contain provisions for feedback and monitoring of student progress.

No more than two (2) post secondary classes and/or two (2) high school credits may be earned during June, July, and August. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the high school principal. Students are still required to take the minimum number of credits as indicated by the High School

Students may take up to 2 courses at any time in a public school in another district, in accordance with section 118.52 of the state statutes.

requirements.

Credit through non-traditional classes such as Online, Project Circuit, Advanced Placement, and Out of District may be earned in any of the following circumstances:

- 1) the course is not offered at resident high school.
- 2) the principal, with agreement from the student, teachers, and parent/guardian, determines that the student would benefit from a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
- 3) although the course is offered by the district school, the student will not be able to take it due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict or special circumstance.

Approved courses must:

- 1) align with state and local standards,
- 2) be delivered by staff licensed in the state where the course originates, and
- 3) contain provisions for feedback and monitoring of student progress.

No more than two (2) post secondary classes and/or two (2) high school credits may be earned during June, July, and August. Exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the high school principal. Students are still required to take the minimum number of credits as indicated by the High School