

#### **BOARD CREDITS**

### **Purpose**

The creation of Board Credits is intended as an incentive for teachers to participate in district approved training that is related to school district goals.

#### **Board Credits**

**Article VI: Compensation, Part Four: Lane Advancement, Section 1, Subd 7:** Credits approved by the school board (Board Credits): Credits shall be accepted upon receipt of a certificate of successful completion.

The Certificate of Successful Completion will be granted by the instructor after the teacher successfully completes the requirements of the course. The "instructor" will determine the requirements for certification. The requirements may include:

- 1. Attendance
- 2. Participation in PLCs, cohort groups
- 3. Demonstrated use of new knowledge (planning, teaching, analysis and reflection, etc.)
- 4. Assessments (post-tests, papers, reflection summaries, demonstrations, lesson plans, etc.)
  Requirements should be objective and must be provided to course participants at the beginning of the course.

# **Opportunities to Earn Board Credits in District 623**

The Office of Educational Equity will maintain a list of courses that will qualify for board credit. The number of offerings will be limited to courses approved by the Office of Educational Equity, courses that fit within the current district focus and number of courses that can be successfully managed by the Office of Educational Equity. The list of approved board credit opportunities will be available on the "For Staff" Webpage under Professional Development.

## **Applications for Board Credit**

New board credit opportunities are considered on an ongoing basis. If a staff member is interested in adding an opportunity, they should contact the Office of Educational Equity for an initial discussion in order to review the requirements. At that point, the staff member will need to complete an

application. If the application is accepted, board credit will be awarded to any staff member that took the approved credit opportunity on or after the date the application was submitted.

## **Requirements for Board Credit Courses**

- All coursework will be scheduled outside the teacher duty day, time-carded days, or stipended time.
- The course must align with the district focus.

#### **Number of Board Credits Per Course**

- If a Board Credit course were also available for college credit, the number of Board Credits granted would be equal to the number available for college credit. Please note that either Board Credit or college credit will be awarded for a single course.
- If a Board Credit course does not offer college credits, the number of credits granted will be determined by the Office of Educational Equity based on the number of hours needed to successfully complete the course. One Board Credit for 10 hours of instruction (12 hours if semester credit).

### How many Board Credits can a teacher accumulate?

A teacher will be allowed 15 board credits toward lane advancement beyond BA and again 15 new board credits beyond MA, and 15 new board credits beyond DR/Specialist. If the teacher is already on the Specialist/PhD lane, \$1500 will be added to their salary.

It is unlikely Board Credit would be recognized by another school district.

## What is the cost to a teacher for obtaining a Board Credit?

The cost for registration and materials <u>may be</u> paid from a school's staff development funds. Each school must decide which courses they will fund from their staff development budget. A teacher would seek approval for reimbursement.

If the teacher wishes to be granted college/university credit, the teacher must pay registration fees.

A teacher <u>may pay</u> the cost for registration and materials if their school is unable to pay these costs from the school's staff development funds.

# How will the Board Credit process be handled?



**The Office of Educational Equity** will have the responsibility for approving courses and certifying Board Credit experiences.

**Staff members** are responsible for keeping their Board Credit certificates. Once a staff member has earned 15 credits, the staff member should submit their certificates to Human Resources. It's very important individual staff members keep track of their certificates and submit them when they have accumulated enough to make a lane change.

**Human Resources** will have the responsibility for maintaining a record of all submitted Board Credits for each individual teacher and applying the credit to a teacher's lane status when applicable. Human Resources will also be responsible for notifying payroll of approved lane changes.

**The principal** will have the responsibility for acting on requests for funding Board Credit expenses requested by teachers at the site.