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To: Members of the Board of Education
From: Doug Larson
Re: Policy Readings
Date: November, 2018

Policy and Legal Services will present one Second Reading during the next Board of Education meeting. A description of the policy identified is provided below.

Article X.A.4. Senior High School Graduation Standards and Requirements

As previously discussed, we consolidated two policies: Article X.A.4.i and Article X.A.4.ii. The new policy provides more guidelines for earning credits toward receiving a diploma. The changes to the policy, specifically, will provide direction to families of students who transfer to GSD schools from other countries or leave GSD schools and return with transfer credits. The policy outlines a standard transfer grade conversion that is linked to national standards.

Article X.A.4. Senior High School Graduation Standards and Requirements

A. Statement of Purpose

The stated charge and responsibility of the Granite School District Board of Education is: “Students will leave Granite School District prepared for college, career, and life in the 21st Century world.” A large part of this charge and responsibility is to assist students in earning a high school diploma. State law and the Utah State Board of Education rules establish a framework for high school completion. Each student shall meet the District graduation standards and requirements, in both academics and citizenship, in order to receive a diploma.

B. Graduation Requirements

Schools may offer a Granite District Diploma and school diplomas (e.g. Kearns High School Diploma or a school Diploma of Merit).

1. Granite District Diploma

The requirements for the Granite School District Diploma are those established by the Utah State Board of Education as enumerated in R277-700.

2. School Diplomas

- a. In addition to the requirements for a Granite District Diploma, receipt of a school diploma is contingent upon the following:
 - i. additional credit requirements as determined by the Board of Education of Granite School District and enumerated in the High School Manual,
 - ii. Citizenship Point Average of 2.00, and
 - iii. enrollment in the school during the student’s final year.
- b. Schools may establish requirements in addition to the foregoing for a school enhanced diploma.

C. Earning Credit

- 1. Students of any age may earn credit toward graduation by any of the following methods:
 - a. Successful completion of credit-bearing courses (in-person or online courses) offered by secondary schools accredited by AdvanceEd or approved by the State Board of Education
 - b. Successful completion of concurrent enrollment classes.

- c. Passing score on District administered competency assessments.
2. School counselors shall make information regarding approved options for earning credit toward high school graduation readily available to students and parents.

D. Credit Recovery

Credit recovery programs are District or school programs outside of the regular school program that provide students with an option for recovering credit for a previously failed course. Credit is awarded upon successful course completion or demonstration of competency through a District approved assessment.

E. Non-Accredited Providers

Students seeking credit for work done in non-accredited settings (e.g. home school, non-accredited private schools, etc.) must be referred to the District Credit Review Committee for evaluation of the work. Credit awarded by the Committee shall be reflected on the student's transcript. The Committee is authorized to review and award credit based on the following criteria:

1. Alignment of the syllabus or course outline with the State Core Standards.
2. Course content that matches Core course requirements as demonstrated through submission of coursework, test scores, etc.
3. Scores on quarterly benchmark assessments administered by the District.

F. Grades

Grades earned in all credit-bearing courses will factor into a student's cumulative Grade Point Average.

G. Transfer Grade Conversion

Transfer credits will be evaluated from authenticated transcripts or comparable original documents from a transferring institution by the District Credit Review Committee. The transcript or other original document from a transferring institution must reflect the total educational experience of the student. The Committee will use the generally accepted 4.0 scale to evaluate transfer credits from other schools in the United States. Based on the information provided in the transcript, the Committee may elect to use the NCAA Guide to International Academic Standards for Athletics Eligibility to evaluate transfer credits from foreign schools. If direct grade conversion is not possible, transfer credits will be issued on a pass/fail basis. If further clarification or arbitration of grade evaluation is desired, parents/guardians may submit the transcript to the International Education Research Foundation (IERF) at the parents'/guardians' own expense.

H. Students with Disabilities

The IEPs of students with disabilities may contain and document modifications, substitutions, and/or exemptions to meet the needs of the students. Such modifications, substitutions, and/or exemptions shall conform to State Special Education Rules.

REFERENCES

Utah Code Ann., §53E-3-505
Utah Code Ann., §53G-9-803
Utah Code Ann., §53G-10-204
Utah Code Ann., §53G-10-402
Utah Administrative Code R277-700
Utah Administrative Code R277-702
Utah Administrative Code R277-705