

## Students

### Acceptance of External High School Credits

The District may accept high school credit earned by currently enrolled students through educational programs offered outside the District, including other accredited high schools, online programs, summer programs, or specialized educational experiences, provided such credit meets the terms of this policy.

1. Pre-Approval Requirement

Students must obtain prior written approval from the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction or designee before enrolling in any external course or program for which high school credit is sought. The District reserves the right to deny credit for courses not pre-approved.

2. Eligible Providers

The District will only accept credit from:

- a. A school accredited by the State of Nebraska or an equivalent state accrediting agency;
- b. Programs accredited by Cognia or a comparable accrediting body; or,
- c. Other educational programs, including camps, travel programs, or specialized instruction, when the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction or designee determines the program provides equivalent academic rigor and instructional time.

3. Approval Criteria

In determining whether to approve external credit, the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction or designee will consider the following criteria:

- a. The alignment of course content to Nebraska state standards and District curriculum;
- b. Instructional time and academic rigor comparable to District courses;
- c. Qualifications and rigor of instructors or sponsoring organization;
- d. Whether the course duplicates previously earned credit;
- e. The student's overall academic plan and graduation requirements; and,
- f. Whether the course otherwise meets the standards and expectations of courses taught in Scottsbluff Public Schools.

4. Internal Procedures Authorized

The Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction is authorized to develop practices and procedures to address other aspects of external credit requests, such as rules regarding courses that must be completed within the District (e.g., core courses) and courses not eligible for external credit (such as online physical education), unless specifically approved.

5. Awarding of Credit

After approval by the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, a student will be eligible to receive credit upon successful completion of the approved course or program and upon receipt of official documentation or transcript from the credit-granting entity. Students will receive a Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S or U) for external high school credits, with a maximum of 10 credits earned per academic school year. For the purposes of this policy, the academic school year is defined as beginning on the first student day of the fall semester and ending on the day before the next fall semester begins.

Official transcripts must be submitted to the high school counseling office prior to the first student day of the subsequent fall semester. Coursework completed during the summer term shall be applied to the preceding academic school year.

6. Financial Responsibility

All costs associated with enrollment in external programs are solely the financial responsibility of the student and parent/guardian, unless otherwise approved in advance by the Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction.