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ADVANCED COLLEGE PLACEMENT

The Alexandria City School Board will enter into an agreement for postsecondary degree attainment with a community college in the Commonwealth specifying the options for students to complete an associate's degree or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies from the community college concurrent with a high school diploma. The agreement will specify the credit available for dual enrollment courses and Advanced Placement courses with qualifying exam scores of three or higher.

Beginning in the middle school years, students will be counseled on opportunities for beginning postsecondary education and opportunities for obtaining industry certifications, occupational competency credentials, or professional licenses in a career and technical education field prior to high school graduation. Such opportunities will include access to at least three Advanced Placement courses or three college-level courses for degree credit. Students taking advantage of such opportunities shall not be denied participation in school activities for which they are otherwise eligible. Wherever possible, students will be encouraged and afforded opportunities to take college courses simultaneously for high school graduation and college degree credit (dual enrollment), under the following conditions:

- Written approval of the high school principal prior to participation in dual enrollment must be obtained.
- The college must accept the student for admission to the course or courses.
- The course or courses must be given by the college for degree credits (no remedial courses will be accepted).

Advanced Education Courses

Students entering programs of advanced education, whether academic or career and technical, before they have completed requirements for graduation may petition the principal of the school to leave the school program early and yet qualify for graduation with a diploma if:

- 1. The student is within two credits of all required units for diploma qualification.
- 2. Assurance is given by the appropriate officials of the sponsoring institution that courses taken in the advanced program are comparable substitutes for those still lacking in the prescribed high school program. The measure of comparability will be based on course content, course/grading expectations, hours of instruction, and instructor qualifications. A minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction by an endorsed teacher in an accredited program will be minimal requirements for the awarding of a full unit of credit.
- 3. Assurance must be given that all requirements for a high school diploma are based on Alexandria City School division Public Schools graduation requirements and can fully be met by the completion date of the first year advanced study requirement.
- 4. The student must confirm that it is his/her responsibility to transmit all required data and final

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grades to the high school in order to have them apply toward his/her scholastic credentials and diploma qualification.

5. For college courses, prior written approval is obtained from the high school principal for dualregistration, the college accepts the student for admission to the course, and the course is given by the college for degree credits.

Alternative Educational Courses

Students, teachers, or others involved in special courses taught outside the standard secondary curriculum and who want these courses recorded on student transcripts and/or reflect credit applied toward diploma qualification will make requests through the school principal to the Superintendent or designee assistant superintendent for secondary education and instructional services.

In order for the courses or programs to apply toward diploma qualification the following conditions must be met:

- 1. A full program description must be submitted including:
 - a. The purpose, instructional content, and expected outcome for the course or program.
 - b. A sequence outline of events and activities.
 - c. An estimate of student time involved in the program including study and preparation time.
 - d. A description of the evaluation criteria.
- 2. A description of the qualifications of the sponsoring organization and instructional personnel.
- 3. A description of the course evaluation procedures used including the results of previous evaluations of similar activities.

In order for the course/program to qualify for unit credit which that would be applicable toward diploma qualification, the following additional criteria must be met:

- 1. Evidence will be submitted by the sponsoring organization that there is a minimum of 70 hours of supervised instruction for each one-half unit of credit.
- 2. Evidence will be submitted that teachers and supervisors, if applicable, have personal expertise, competence, and appropriate credentials to qualify them as teachers or supervisors.
- 3. Student performance records, including performance and attendance, will be forwarded to and reviewed by the principal upon completion of the course/program.
- 4. The student and parent will be informed that no more than one unit of credit can be earned for each course taken and no more than two credits can be applied toward diploma qualification.

Adopted: November 7, 1996 June 1, 2006

Amended:

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:1

Amended:

Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia,

8 VAC 20-131-<u>140</u>70 et. seq.

Cross Ref.: IGBI Advanced Placement Classes and Special Programs

IKF ____Graduation Requirements

LEB-R Advanced College Placement Regulations

