

For additional information about Ohio's Credit Flexibility plan, visit the Ohio Department of Education website at <http://education.ohio.gov>
Click on *School Options*.

Credit flexibility shifts the focus from evaluating student learning based on "seat time" to assessing students' demonstrated academic and skill level or performance. The plan does not eliminate Carnegie unit requirements, rather it retains seat time as one option and expands the number of options for earning credit by adding demonstration of subject area competency and structures that support it irrespective of any time requirements. —an excerpt from **New Emphasis on Learning: Ohio's Credit Flexibility Plan Shifts the Focus from "Seat Time" to Performance**, written by the Ohio Credit Flexibility Design Team for the Ohio Department of Education.

The State Board of Education adopted Ohio's Credit Flex plan in March 2009. Local school boards and chartered non-public schools and providers of career-technical education are required to comply with provisions of the plan in the 2010-2011 school year.

The Lawrence County Educational Service Center assisted high schools in Lawrence County to develop a county-wide policy. The policy ensures that the Credit Flex program is implemented consistently in all high schools within the county.

Credit Flex awards credit based on competence. Research confirms that varying time and instructional methodology, while maintaining quality, can cultivate the kind of self-directed learning that is essential for success in postsecondary education and careers —and throughout life.



Credit Flexibility for Students at Chesapeake High School

Chesapeake High School recognizes that an effective educational program is one that provides opportunities for students to customize aspects of their learning around their respective needs and interests. Credit flexibility is one approach to motivate and increase student learning by allowing access to more resources, customization around individual student needs and the use of alternative measures of learning.

Credit flexibility shifts the focus from seat time to performance. The policy offers students opportunities to demonstrate proficiency to count toward course requirements for graduation. Students may earn credit both within and beyond the traditional classroom and school day. Through credit flexibility options, a high school student can earn units of high school credit based on an individually approved credit flexibility plan.

The intent of credit flexibility is to meet increased expectations for high school graduation in response to globalization, technology and demographics, and to meet the demands for 21st century skills.



Credit Flexibility for Students at Chesapeake High School

The Credit Flexibility plan enables students to earn high school credit by:

- 1. Completing coursework in a traditional classroom setting;**
- 2. Testing out or demonstrating mastery of course content;**
- 3. Pursuing an individual approved educational option;**
- 4. Any combination of the above.**

Option 1: The Credit Flexibility plan enables students to earn high school credit by completing coursework in a traditional classroom setting.

Chesapeake High School students, as well as all other high school students in Lawrence County districts, may continue to earn credit through the traditional completion of a course. Courses will continue to be offered in all subjects. Traditional courses follow an approved course of study, with state standards in place for teaching and learning.

Option 2: The Credit Flexibility plan enables students to earn high school credit by testing out or demonstrating mastery of course content.

CHS students, as well as students from other high schools in Lawrence County districts, may opt to take an end of course assessment in lieu of taking a traditional course. End of course assessments are offered twice a year through the Lawrence County Educational Service Center. There is a cost of \$25 for each exam. The exams are computer-based and include a total of 250 multiple choice and constructed response items.

All assessments are administered at the Lawrence County ESC location. No assessments are offered in individual districts. The school guidance counselor can offer more details about this option.

Option 4: The Credit Flexibility plan enables students to earn high school credit by combining any of the four options.

A high school student may complete a course in a traditional setting while at the same time complete an independent study. Or the student may test out of one course, complete one course through an independent study and complete all other courses in the traditional setting. A student has the freedom to combine the credit flexibility options for earning credit.

Option 3: The Credit Flexibility plan enables students to earn high school credit by pursuing an individual approved educational option.

Chesapeake High School students, as well as all other students attending a Lawrence County high school, may earn credit through a student-designed program of learning. Such an option acknowledges and addresses students' differing learning styles and interests. Self-designed options might include :

- an internship in a professional setting
- travel for an educational purpose
- independent research on a topic of interest
- experience in fine arts, such as theater, music, dance
- specialized course offered in another location or online educational coursework

Through a self-designed learning option, a high school student might earn partial or full credit, depending on the depth and breadth of the study. By offering such options, students are permitted to take a greater leadership role in their own education.

A student's independent learning plan must first be submitted for approval. The school guidance counselor can provide more details about how a student should submit a proposal for an independent learning plan to be approved and the required steps for completion.