

Middletown High School 2010-2011

Credit Flexibility Options Guidelines



Credit Flexibility Options

Middletown City Schools, offers a variety of educational options for students (see program of studies). The Credit Flexibility option is an evolving program that will expand over the next several years.

Ohio's Credit Flexibility Plan

Senate Bill 311 (the Ohio Core Legislation) raised the graduation requirements for high school students, with the goal of increasing the number of students who are ready to meet the demands of our global and technological age. It included among its several provisions a requirement that the State Board of Education adopt a plan that enables "students to earn units of high school credit based on a demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in combination with completing hours of classroom instruction." School districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools "shall comply" with the provisions of the plan, phasing in its provisions during the 2009-10 school year.

Ohio's plan for credit flexibility is designed to broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, increase the depth of study possible for a particular subject, and allowing tailoring of learning time and/or conditions.

Credit flexibility is intended to motivate and increase student learning by allowing:

- Access to more learning resources, especially real-world experiences
- Customization around individual student needs
- Use of multiple measures of learning, especially those where students demonstrate what they know and can do, apply the learning, or document performance.

Ways to Access Credit Flexibility:

1. Successfully test out of a required or elective course. (See page 2)
2. Successfully demonstrate mastery through methods such as portfolios, internships, work-study, independent study plans or any combination of these methods. (see page 3)

General Guidelines/Rules

- Students must be enrolled in grades 9-12 at Middletown High School to be eligible to earn credits using credit flexibility plans.

- There are two options Flex Test Out (page 2) and Flex Course (page 3)
 - The number of credits allowed through the flexible credit program is not limited, however, the student will not be able to create a credit flexibility plan which would allow that student to take the same course for which credit has already been given.
 - Students are required to schedule seven courses during the regular school day. Courses taken through Credit Flex will be counted in the student's GPA, but cannot be weighted.
 - A Student wishing to take the credit flexibility option must meet with a Counselor prior to the application process.
 - A student wishing to take the Flexible Credit option must submit an application for approval to the principal by July 16 2010 for first semester and December 3, 2010 for second semester.
 - The building principal shall form a review committee, which may include but not be limited to, the appropriate curriculum coordinator, administrator, content teacher and guidance counselor, for application approval.
 - Students may appeal a denied course by a process started by contacting the high school principal in writing by the 5th day of notification of denial of course.
 - Courses need to be finished within one year of approved application, unless otherwise arranged *or stated on student's current IEP*.
 - Transportation to off-site learning activities will not be provided by the district
 - Fees associated with a credit flexibility course that are outside of the normal class requirements are the responsibility of the student.
 - Both semesters of a 1-credit course, must be taken together, unless only one semester is needed by student for graduation.
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Flex Test Out

Credit Flexibility Test Out Option is for students that already have mastery of course key competencies through prior learning. The following guidelines need to be followed:

1. Application must be submitted 30 days prior to the start of the semester where credit is to be earned.
2. Flex Test Out Guidelines per offered courses* will be available to student and may include not only a written or oral assessment, but also a performance portion (i.e. project, portfolio, performance). Any fee associated with assessment will be the responsibility of the student.
3. The student will be assigned a teacher of record for the course and will make arrangement to take all assessment pieces.

4. The *written portion of the* assessment should take place prior to the second week of the semester, in the necessity that the student needs to take the course in the traditional manner. *If student passes written portion of the assessment, the additional assessment measures must be completed* within the school year applied.
 5. ***Test out does not mean a single paper-pencil exam, but incorporates multiple measures of student learning. The process may include the completion of an exam and one or more of the following:***
 - a. *Research paper*
 - b. *Project-based learning assignment*
 - c. *Portfolio of work*
 - d. *Performance*
 - e. *Other demonstration or performance based task*
 6. The student may apply for the Flex Test Out Option only once for each course during the school year.
 7. ***The grade the student receives will be a 90% in order to demonstrate mastery and receive credit.***
 8. The grade on the student's transcript will not indicated that the Flex Test Out Option was the method of completion.
 9. Students can obtain a list of competencies needed and a pre-test to determine if the test out option is appropriate.
 10. NCAA may not except credit by Flex Test Out to satisfy core course requirements.
 11. IEP testing accommodations will be available as listed on student's current IEP
 12. *Flex Credit course offerings have been designed by each department for the first Pilot year of the Credit Flexibility. Departments have chosen and designed Test Out guidelines for courses that have anticipated high requests. A student may request a course not in our current offering and a department committee will review that request.
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Flex Course

The Flex Course option is for those students that do not already have skills for mastery, but need or wish to take a course in a non-tradition method.

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- A student wishing to take a Flex Course option
 - must meet with their Guidance Counselor.
 - A student wishing to take the Flex Course option must submit an application for approval to the principal 30 days prior to the start of the semester (for 2010/11 school year).

- A student wishing to take the Flex Course option must meet with a Counselor prior to application process.
- Students must attend an Informational/Goal setting meeting prior to application.
- The building principal shall form a review committee, which may include but not be limited to, the appropriate curriculum coordinator, administrator, content teacher and guidance counselor, for application approval.
- The review committee will determine the acceptability of the course and number of credit(s) to be granted.
- A teacher of record will be assigned to work with the individual student.
- An A or B must be earned in the course to receive credit.
- Progress monitoring by the teacher of record will be on going.
- A plan will be developed by student and teacher of record, which may include
 - *Research paper*
 - *On-line course*
 - *Blended learning*
 - *classwork*
 - *Project-based learning assignment*
 - *Portfolio of work*
 - *Performance*
 - *Internships*
 - *Other demonstration or performance based task*
- Methods for demonstrating mastery for credit: the teacher of record, with student input, will develop criteria for assessing mastery, which may include: projects, tests, quizzes, labs, research paper or project, portfolio, culminating project or other options developed by student and teacher.
- Flex Credit course offerings have been designed by each department for the first pilot year of the Credit Flexibility Credit Options. Departments have chosen and designed Test Out guidelines for courses that have anticipated high requests. A student may request a course not in our current offering and a department committee will review that request.

