

Framework to Issue Credit for Work-Based Learning

Students in work-based learning experiences, as defined here, may be eligible for school credit. Credit may be issued by enhancing current courses with work-based learning experiences or by utilizing the local district's policy on credit flexibility to award credit. These experiences also may be an important way to help students earn industry-recognized credentials.

Overview

State law requires, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, each district and community school to comply with an Ohio Department of Education-developed framework for issuing credit for work-based learning. Each district and community school also shall review any policy it has adopted regarding the demonstration of subject area competency to identify ways to incorporate work-based learning experiences, internships and cooperative education into the policy to increase student engagement and opportunities to earn units of high school credit.

Work-Based Learning

Work-based learning experiences are conducted at a work site during or after school. They are designed to provide authentic learning experiences for students that link academic, technical and professional skills. Business and education partners work together to evaluate and supervise the experiences, which must be documented with training or learning plans and evaluation forms. Local districts may have additional guidelines (eligibility, required competencies, credit granted, etc.) around these experiences.

Credit Flexibility

This education option gives students a personalized way to guide their learning. Credit flexibility is one way to increase a student's interest in school and motivation to learn. It provides equitable access to various course options to all students throughout the state of Ohio.

Credit flexibility is the personalization of education to the learning styles and interests of individual students. Students demonstrate what they know and move on to advanced content. They learn subject matter and earn course credit in ways not limited to "seat time" or the confines of a school building. Credit flexibility includes personalization of students' learning around their interests and needs, which might include flexible schedules and a choice of environments (such as online learning or work- and community-based experiences), as well as options to pursue their interest areas, combine subjects and demonstrate professional skills.

Each student, their family and school create the credit flexibility plan together, based on the local district's requirements, including how the student will demonstrate competency in subject areas. The district's policy typically contains an application for credit, which would include information on the course, how much credit the student is seeking and how the student will be assessed for course credit.

How can work-based learning and credit flexibility work together?

The Ohio Department of Education put together a downloadable [Work-Based Learning Agreement](#) that may be customized based on local policies to showcase student learning to be eligible for credit according to the district's policy on credit flexibility. Download the Work-Based Learning Agreement [here](#).

Based on feedback, the Department is continuing to develop additional tools to assist in the implementation of issuing credit for work-based learning.