
Credit Flexibility Considerations for School Counselors

Tom Rutan

Ohio Department of Education

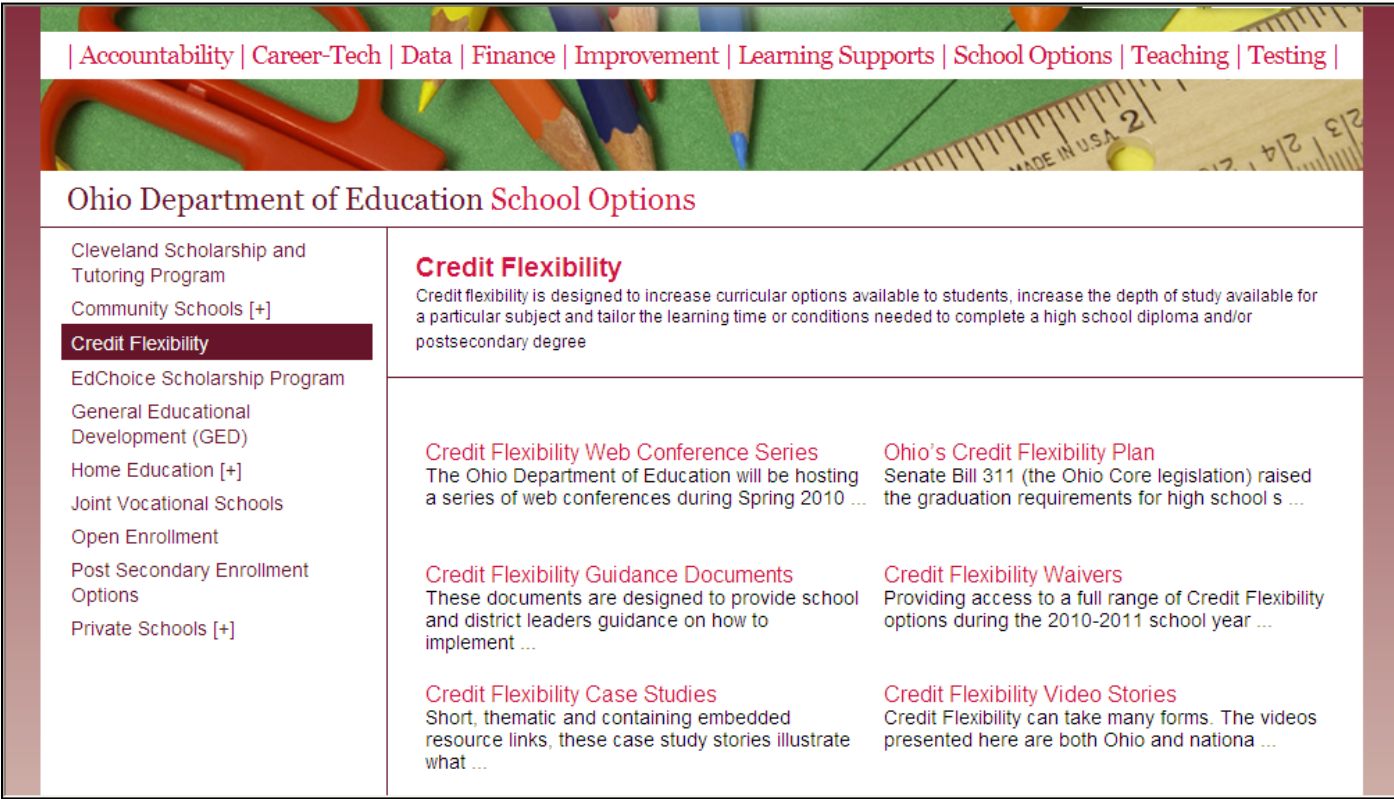
Judy Maver

Akron Public Schools/Ohio School Counselors
Association

October 4

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Credit Flexibility Resources



The screenshot shows the Ohio Department of Education's 'School Options' page. At the top is a navigation bar with links: Accountability | Career-Tech | Data | Finance | Improvement | Learning Supports | School Options | Teaching | Testing. Below this is a header for 'Ohio Department of Education School Options'. A left sidebar lists various programs, with 'Credit Flexibility' highlighted in a dark red box. The main content area features a 'Credit Flexibility' section with a description: 'Credit flexibility is designed to increase curricular options available to students, increase the depth of study available for a particular subject and tailor the learning time or conditions needed to complete a high school diploma and/or postsecondary degree'. Below this are four resource boxes: 'Credit Flexibility Web Conference Series' (hosting web conferences in Spring 2010), 'Ohio's Credit Flexibility Plan' (Senate Bill 311 raising graduation requirements), 'Credit Flexibility Guidance Documents' (providing school and district leaders guidance), and 'Credit Flexibility Waivers' (providing access to a full range of options during the 2010-2011 school year). At the bottom are 'Credit Flexibility Case Studies' (short, thematic stories with embedded resource links) and 'Credit Flexibility Video Stories' (videos showing various forms of credit flexibility, including Ohio and national examples).

| Accountability | Career-Tech | Data | Finance | Improvement | Learning Supports | School Options | Teaching | Testing |

Ohio Department of Education School Options

- Cleveland Scholarship and Tutoring Program
- Community Schools [+]
- Credit Flexibility**
- EdChoice Scholarship Program
- General Educational Development (GED)
- Home Education [+]
- Joint Vocational Schools
- Open Enrollment
- Post Secondary Enrollment Options
- Private Schools [+]

Credit Flexibility

Credit flexibility is designed to increase curricular options available to students, increase the depth of study available for a particular subject and tailor the learning time or conditions needed to complete a high school diploma and/or postsecondary degree

Credit Flexibility Web Conference Series

The Ohio Department of Education will be hosting a series of web conferences during Spring 2010 ...

Ohio's Credit Flexibility Plan

Senate Bill 311 (the Ohio Core legislation) raised the graduation requirements for high school s ...

Credit Flexibility Guidance Documents

These documents are designed to provide school and district leaders guidance on how to implement ...

Credit Flexibility Waivers

Providing access to a full range of Credit Flexibility options during the 2010-2011 school year ...

Credit Flexibility Case Studies

Short, thematic and containing embedded resource links, these case study stories illustrate what ...

Credit Flexibility Video Stories

Credit Flexibility can take many forms. The videos presented here are both Ohio and nationa ...

Visit the [credit flexibility website](#) to view and download guidance documents and case studies

Archived Web Conferences

Click on the links below to view the archived Web conferences:

- [Teachers of Record](#)
- [Third-Party Providers](#)
- [Test-Out Development and Implementation](#)
- [Engaging Families and Community in Credit Flexibility](#)
- [Communicate Effectively Your District's Credit Flexibility Policy](#)
- [Credit Flexibility Focus on Physical Education, Career Technology Education, and Foreign Languages](#)
- [Credit Flexibility Considerations for School Counselors](#)
- [Teacher-led Credit Flexibility Initiatives Using Technology](#)
- [Assessment Tips for Credit Flexibility](#)
- [Developing Quality Student Credit Flexibility Plans](#)
- [Mastery-based Assessment Models](#)
- [School Finance and Credit Flexibility](#)
- [Working with Gifted and Special Education](#)
- [Credit Flexibility and Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements](#)

Web Conference Logistics

- To cut down on background noises, we are **muting your phones**.
- During the Web conference, there are several opportunities for participants to **interact with presenters and chat** with other participants.
- During the question-and-answer segments, you have the option to verbally ask a question—or—you may **submit a question** or comment through the Chat Pod. To **verbally ask a question**, click on this icon  and select “Raise Hand” to let the facilitator know you have a question.

Great Lakes East Comprehensive Center

- Great Lakes East focuses its work in Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, and is a part of the network of 16 regional comprehensive centers and five national content centers.
- The regional comprehensive centers provide technical assistance designed to raise the capacity of states to help districts and schools meet the goals of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) with the emphasis on the Secretary's key reform priorities.

For more information, visit www.learningpt.org/greatlakeeast

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Tom Rutan



Associate Director

Curriculum and Instruction

Phone: (614) 728-1997

E-mail: tom.rutan@ode.state.oh.us

Ohio Department of Education

25 South Front Street

Columbus, OH 43215

education.ohio.gov

Judy Maver



School Counselor

E-mail: jmaver@akron.k12.oh.us

Akron Public Schools

www.akronschools.com

Web Conference Series

- Intended to support local implementation of Ohio's Credit Flexibility Policy
 - Includes highlights from guidance documents
 - Connects participants with Ohio schools, districts, organizations to share ideas
 - Identifies additional resources for support

Session's Objectives

- Increase understanding of the role and responsibilities of school counselors in the development and implementation of a student credit flexibility process
- Recommend district and school approaches to managing credit flexibility processes
- Respond to your questions

Quality Student Plans

Elements of a student credit flexibility plan:

- What course content and academic credit will be included in the plan?
- How will the student demonstrate proficiency?
- What (assessment) instruments or (educational) programs will be used to demonstrate proficiency?
- What will be the minimum threshold needed to award credit (e.g., % of passing rate on tests, performances, demonstration of competency)?
- How will a grade be determined?

Quality Student Plans

Elements of a student credit flexibility plan:

- What are the consequences of not completing the credit flexibility plan or doing failing work? What safeguards will be in place?
- Who will serve as the teacher of record?
- When will the credit proficiency evidence be due?
- How and when will progress toward success be demonstrated?
- What measures will be used to verify completion of the credit flexibility?
- What costs, if any, must be assumed by the student?

Credit Flexibility Planning

Ed Options Instructional & Performance Plans

OAC §3301-35-06(G)

(G) **All** educational options shall require:

- (1) An instructional **and performance** plan that is based on individual student needs and shall include
 - (a) Instructional **and performance** objectives that align with the school district's curriculum requirements;
 - (b) An outline that specifies instructional activities, materials, and learning environments; and
 - (c) A description of the criteria and methods for assessing student performance.
- (2) Parental permission for students under age eighteen;
- (3) Superintendent approval prior to student participation;

Credit Flex Planning

Ed Options Instructional & Performance Plans

OAC §3301-35-06(G)

- (4) Involvement of a credentialed teacher in reviewing the instructional plan, **which may include** providing, supervising **or reviewing** instruction **or learning experiences**, and **the evaluation of** student performance; and
- (5) Credit for approved educational options shall be assigned according to student performance relative to stated objectives of the **approved instructional and performance plan** and in accordance with local board policy and established procedures.
- (6) **Each school district shall communicate information and procedures related to credit flexibility and educational options available in the school district to students, parents and all interested stakeholders.**

School Counselors' Roles and Responsibilities

Does Include:

- Collaboration in the development of a student credit flexibility plan
- Facilitation in the implementation of a student credit flexibility plan
- Comprehensive academic advising

School Counselors' Roles and Responsibilities

Does *Not* Include:

- Sole responsibility for development of credit flexibility plan
- Instructional delivery
- Assessment of student learning
- Submission of grades for credit (role of teacher of record)

Existing Processes

- Utilize existing processes:
 - Independent Study
 - Internships
 - Ed Options
 - Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
 - Written Education Plans (WEPs)
 - Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

Common Issues

- Role of a school counselor
- Athletic eligibility
- Teacher of record and HQT requirements
- Third-party providers
- Homeschooling
- Cost and compensation

Questions

- During the question-and-answer segments, you have the option to verbally ask a question or you may submit a question or comment through the Chat Pod.
- To verbally ask a question, click on this icon  and select “Raise Hand” to let the facilitator know you have a question.

Opportunities for School Counselors

- Greater focus on academic advising
- Support a culture of high expectations
- Increase student participation in academic decisions
- Stronger collaboration with families and community
- Consultation with other educators/multi-disciplinary teams

Collaboration Opportunities

- Credit Flexibility Community of Practice
 - Credit Flexibility Topic Area Wikis (e.g., School Counselors Wiki)
 - Credit Flexibility Blog
 - Frequently Asked Questions
 - Message Boards
 - Documents
 - Calendar

School Counselors Wiki

The screenshot shows the 'School Counselors' page on the SharedWork.org Wiki. The page has a dark blue header with the SharedWork.org logo and a search bar. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: Home, Blog, Wiki (selected), FAQs, Message Boards, Documents, Calendar, and Help. The main content area is titled 'School Counselors' and includes a welcome message, a list of content standards, and a list of recent blogs. The page is displayed in a web browser window with a status bar at the bottom showing 'Done' and 'Internet'.

SharedWork.org

Home Blog Wiki FAQs Message Boards Documents Calendar Help

meetings.sharedwork.org > Ohio Credit Flexibility > Wiki > School Counselors

Wiki

FrontPage Recent Changes All Pages Orphan Pages Draft Pages Search

School Counselors

Edit Details Print

Welcome everyone! These pages are specifically designed for school counselors to help us fulfill our role in the credit flexibility process. Because of our vision, we can offer broad insights and invaluable expertise to students and their families, to school staff, and to community members --- all partners in creating, implementing, and evaluating students' plans. Although students initiate, research, and manage the process, it is our responsibility to ask the challenging questions that keep them moving toward success.

Content Standards

A critical element in developing a student credit flex plan is the alignment of the learning experience and assessment to the course content standards. In addition to finding these standards on the ODE website, check out the following subject area pages for more information:

Recent Blogs

Welcome to the Community of Practice

Topic Areas

- Assessment/Test Out
- Career and Technical Education
- Communication
- District- and State-Level Appeals
- English Language Arts
- Gifted Education

Settings Online Friends (1)

Done Internet 100%

Conclusion

- There are elements of quality student credit flexibility plans that can help you develop processes, guides, and templates to address student credit flexibility requests.
- School counselors are key members of the school-based team who collaborate together to develop student credit flexibility plans.

Questions

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Next Steps

- [All Ohio Counselors Conference](#)
 - Joint presentation by Tom Rutan and Judy Maver
 - Thursday, November 3, 2011
 - 1:45–2:45 p.m.
- Today's Web Conference Materials
 - PowerPoint (available for immediate download)
 - Video archive
 - Transcript
 - Q & A Summary

Next Steps



| Accountability | Career-Tech | Data | Finance | Improvement | Learning Supports | School Options | Teaching | Testing |

Ohio Department of Education School Options

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Visit the [credit flexibility website](#) to view and download guidance documents

Next Steps

- [Credit Flexibility Community of Practice](#)
 - Join the Credit Flexibility Community of Practice and continue the discussion online (Information, including instructions on how to register, can be downloaded from the File Share Pod.)
 - Post your questions or share ideas on how your school or district is implementing credit flexibility

Thank you
for participating in today's
Web conference.

Visit the [credit flexibility website](#) to view
and download guidance documents