



Responsible Office(s): Office of Academics

BOARD POLICY 6505

PATHWAYS TO EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees (Board) establishes this Board Policy to provide students the opportunity to earn college credit, develop study habits, and take on course work that parallels what students might experience in college level courses. To that end, high school students in the Washoe County School District (District) have opportunities to access Pathway programs including Signature Academies, Career and Technical Education, Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate Programmes, and Dual Credit classes.

DEFINITIONS

1. "21st Century Competencies" are the skills and abilities deemed essential for a person to lead a successful life in the context of the demands of the 21st Century, such as the applied skills of critical thinking, creativity and innovation, communication, and collaboration.
2. "Advanced Placement Courses" are part of the Advanced Placement (AP) program, created by the College Board, and offers college-level curriculum and examinations to high school students. AP Courses cover the breadth of information, skills, and assignments found in corresponding college courses, and colleges in the United States often grant placement and credit to students who obtain above the required score on the examinations.
3. "Career and Technical Education (CTE)" are courses of study that provide rigorous applied curriculum in technical areas to prepare students for college and/or highly skilled careers, global competitiveness, and productive citizenry.
4. "College and Career Ready" requires more than just obtaining a high school diploma. It means that a high school graduate is ready to pursue preparation for a highly skilled career and is admissible to and prepared to succeed in first-year, credit-bearing classes without remediation at a 2- or 4-year college, technical or trade school, or apprenticeship program. A "career" differs from a "job" in that a career offers the opportunity to advance and develop professionally.

5. "Dual Credit" is credit earned toward graduation from high school for courses taken at a community college or university.
6. "Higher Education Cooperative Programs" are agreements the District has entered into with a college or university to award college credit for students enrolled in a program of study.
7. "International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes" are academically challenging and balanced programmes of education. For students in 11th and 12th grades, this programme is designed to prepare students for the rigors of college through a focus in six academic areas, and three core activities, as well as promotion of the whole person through independent, critical, and creative thought. The IB programme offers college-level curriculum and examinations to high school students. International and domestic colleges often grant placement and credit to students who obtain above the required score on the examinations.
8. "Positive Post-Secondary Placement" is a high school graduate who, six months after graduation, is enrolled in a post-secondary institution, has entered the military, or is gainfully employed.
9. "Signature Academies" are themed courses of study that represent a school's identity, culture, and intent; reflect local and national industry demand; integrate academic concepts with technical skills and acquisition; offers opportunities for students to gain and practice 21st Century competencies; and prepare students for college and career success.

POLICY

1. The District shall provide a pathway course structure that supports the District Strategic Plan and the School Performance Framework.
2. Pathway courses include but are not limited to: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), higher education cooperative programs, dual credit programs, Career and Technical Education (CTE), and the District's Signature Academies.
 - a. The Superintendent is authorized to negotiate and enter into cooperative agreements with such institutions of higher education regarding pathway courses when such agreements are consistent with this Board Policy.
 - b. In accordance with state law, dual credit courses must be approved by the Board before being forwarded to the Nevada Board of Education for consideration and final approval.

3. The District shall implement a system of data-driven accountability for pathway programs to identify the needs of students and provide support and access to pathway programs for District students.
4. Program Characteristics
 - a. The Courses and Programs referenced in this Board Policy shall include, but not be limited to, the following characteristics:
 - i. Academic achievement enhanced by thematic programming, teaching philosophies, and real-world experiences.
 - ii. Educational equity to provide students access to participate and make progress in learning experiences in order to reach academic success regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender, disability, national origin, religion, or other characteristics.
 - iii. An atmosphere that cultivates family, community, business, and post-secondary partnerships through systems and processes that maximize student outcomes.
 - iv. Increased student access through the District's awareness activities, communication, and transfer procedures.
5. The District will provide ongoing professional development opportunities, giving teachers and leaders the skills and knowledge to educate, guide, and support students and parents in choosing and completing Pathway Courses, gaining 21st Century competencies, and achieving successful post-secondary placement upon graduation.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

1. This Board Policy reflects the goals of the District's Strategic Plan and aligns/complies with the governing documents of the District, to include:
 - a. Board Policy 6400, Assessment.
2. This Board Policy complies with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) and Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), to include:
 - a. NRS Chapter 277, Cooperative Agreements: State, Counties, Cities, Districts and Other Public Agencies, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 277.045, Cooperative agreements between political subdivision for performance of governmental functions; budget for expenses;

- b. NAC Chapter 385B, Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association, and specifically:
 - i. NAC 385B.030, "Magnet school" defined; and
- c. NRS Chapter 389, Academics and Textbooks, and specifically:
 - i. NRS 389.160, Credit toward graduation from high school for courses taken at community college or university.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Modification
11/18/2014	1.0	Adopted: Combined deleted Board Policies 6142, Occupational Education, 6500, AP/IB Classes, 6171.2, Higher Ed Cooperative Programs
06/14/2022	2.0	Revised: Update format per BP 9070 and clarify language