

COTA - Credit Flexibility Plan

In compliance with Senate Bill 311, this school offers students opportunities to earn high school credit through a credit flexibility program. All students are eligible for consideration for credit flexibility. Students that are interested will initiate and submit a request in writing to take and/or earn the credit via the credit flexibility plan (CFP). Students can earn credits by:

- Completing coursework;
- Testing out or demonstrating mastery on course content: or
- Pursuing one or more “educational options” such as distance learning, educational travel, internships, independent study, projects, or other available options.

Eligibility

To be eligible to submit and participate in the credit flexibility option, students must meet the following criteria:

- Students who enroll with less than four (4) academic core credits may participate in the CFP only after completing one full core academic credit.
- Currently enrolled students may participate in the CFP at any time.
- Students must attend, with their parent(s)/guardian, an informational session with the Credit Flexibility Committee (CFC) or designee from the CFC to discuss procedures, plans outcomes, and impacts of participation in the credit flexibility option.
- Students must submit a pre-approval form to the CFC by the designated deadlines.

Approval Process

To earn credit through the credit flexibility option, students must submit the following documentation to the CFC by April 1 in preparation for the following school year.

- 1-2 page written statement from the student summarizing the plan for their credit flexibility option and the likelihood of success. The plan should include the following:
 - Method of earning credit
 - Amount of credit sought (may request for only .25 credit, .50 credit, or 1 full credit towards a course)
 - Academic or elective discipline of study
 - Outside resources that will be involved in the completion of the credit
 - Timeline for completion
 - Teacher of record, who will monitor progress, attainment of knowledge, and award of grades

- Learning outcomes, content standards (must be aligned to the Ohio Department of Education Content Standards)
- Special accommodations to be provided for students with a disability in compliance with the students Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan

Credit Flexibility Committee

The Credit Flexibility Committee (CFC) will consist of the school principal and two teacher representatives in the relevant subject area.

Awarding of Credit

Credit and grades will be awarded based upon the completion of the credit flexibility plan approved by the CFC. It will be reported on the student transcripts and factored into a student's grade point average (GPA) and class ranking. All credit and grades earned are final.

All time lines regarding grade reporting must be adhered to pursuant to the School's calendar of grades input requirements. This is to ensure that the staff will be able to appropriately schedule students into necessary courses and appropriately monitor progress.

- Credit and grade will be awarded to students who successfully complete all requirements laid out in the Credit Flexibility Approval form
- Student grade will be determined by the teacher of record and based upon the student's attainment of knowledge as related to the Ohio Content Standards and course objective
- Student who do not complete their requested credit flexibility option by the designated deadline or completely fail to meet the requirements for adequate completion and/or knowledge attainment of the course, will not receive credit and a grade of "F" will be reported in the student's transcript and factored into their GPA. If this occurs, students may not submit to earn the same credit through the credit flexibility option

Responsibility of Student and Parent(s)/Guardian

School Attendance – Students participating in the credit flexibility option will be required to attend school for the remainder of their course load. Each student assumes the responsibility to attend all classes. Regular attendance and punctuality are necessary for success.

Fees – The School will require parent(s)/guardians of a student participating in the credit flexibility option not initiated by the School to be responsible for any additional fees associated with participation in that option.

Academic Integrity – Credit flexibility options are the sole responsibility of the student. The student must complete all work and final products on his/her own. A student may accept support, feedback, and knowledge from outside sources to assist in the completion of the credit flexibility option but the credit must be given to outside sources for contribution to the work.

A student deemed to be in violation of academic integrity guidelines will be notified of the complaint and informed of the need to be removed from the credit flexibility option. A student found to be in violation of academic integrity guidelines will receive no credit and a failing grade for the course. It will be reported on the transcript and factored into the GPA. The student will be denied participation in any future requests to participate in the credit flexibility option.

Appeals Process

Should a student and/or parent(s)/guardian disagree with a decision or action by the Credit Flexibility Committee or teacher of record, the student may submit a written appeal and may request a hearing.

Appeals must be formally written and submitted to the Credit Flexibility Committee. The Credit Flexibility Committee and a teacher representative not involved in the original approval and assessment of the student will review the appeal.

The student filing the written appeal and his/her parent(s)/guardian will be given an opportunity to present concerns and recommendations to the committee. The committee will review the appeals within 10 days from the date the written appeal was submitted. The decision of the committee may be appealed to the School Superintendent or the School's Board of Directors.

Communication Plan

Opportunities and requirements related to credit flexibility will be publicized annually. Copies of the publication describing opportunities and requirements related to credit flexibility will be made available to students, staff, parent(s)/guardian, community member upon request to the school principal.

Students and parent(s)/guardians are informed that data regarding participation in credit flexibility options will be shared on an annual bases as required by the Ohio Department of Education.