ALTERNATIVE CREDIT OPTION

It is the policy of the Salem School Board to permit the earning of credits through limited alternative methods outside of regular classroom-based instruction offered at Salem High School. Approval of opportunities to earn credit by alternative methods and applied toward high school graduation, is made by the Salem School Board or its designee, and will be granted only if the request meets the following criteria:

1. Participation in Salem High School’s School to Career’s internships requires students to meet established pre-requisites including approval of our School to Careers Coordinator. Career internship courses include time on-site; supervision of on-site activity, which includes determining that a workplace is safe; and time in the classroom. Credit for the course will not be recognized until an official grade has been received and registered.

2. A request to earn credit for completing an online or virtual course can be considered only if the course is taught by a teacher certified in the state in which the course originates. The student must meet necessary prerequisites and have the recommendation of a Salem High School guidance counselor and a Salem High School teacher, indicating the necessary maturity level. The school will provide appropriate staff supervision of progress. Credit for the course will not be recognized until an official grade has been received and registered.

3. A request for credit for completing an independent study course necessitates completion of appropriate registration forms, the approval of a Salem High School guidance counselor, the teacher supervising the independent study program, the appropriate Area Director, and the Dean of Guidance. Parent signature acknowledging participation and an understanding of expectations is also required. In addition, defined methods of assessment and evaluation must be identified prior to the start of the course. Credit for the course will not be recognized until an official grade has been received and registered.

4. Requests to earn credit through successful completion of a course taken at an accredited post-secondary institution must have a parent or guardian’s written consent, and the approvals of the student’s school guidance counselor, the Dean of Guidance, and the school principal. One credit will be awarded for a passing grade of D or better only after an official transcript grade has been received and registered.

The Board approves and encourages these alternative credit options for hospitalized or homebound students, students requiring alternatives to a regular day school program, students who exhaust all other content courses offered at Salem High School, students who wish to complete Advanced Placement level courses not offered, or other atypical students for whom regular classrooms are not practical or effective.

Students availing themselves of alternative credit methods will participate in all assessments required by the statewide education improvement and assessment program. A student may apply no more than four alternative credits toward the mandatory minimum for a Salem High School Diploma. The Superintendent is directed by the Board to consult with the high school principal and determine a reasonable limit of alternative credit programs administered each year school-wide and per student and to assure that all students have equal access to alternative credit options. Summer school is available solely for completing credit requirements as outlined in the Salem High School Student Handbook. Summer school is excluded as an alternative credit option for meeting graduation requirements.

If a student demonstrates knowledge and abilities on a placement pre-test developed by the school district for a particular course, the student shall not receive credit for the course but shall be allowed to take a more advanced level of the subject or an elective.

Unless otherwise recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board, under ordinary circumstances students or their parents/guardians are responsible for all related expenses including tuition and textbooks.

Adopted 7/17/07