

PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE ATTENDED AN UNACCREDITED SCHOOL OR ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM

A elementary aged child who has been attending an unaccredited school in another state or country or has been receiving alternative instruction pursuant to § 13-27-3 and seeks to enroll in the Montrose School District, shall be placed at the child's demonstrated level of proficiency as established by the standardized test administered to enrolled students in that grade in this District. Such child's placement may not be in a grade level higher than warranted by the child's chronological age assuming entry into the first grade at age six and annual grade advancement thereafter. After initial placement the child may be advanced according to his or her demonstrated performance.

A child of secondary school age who has been attending an unaccredited school in another state or country or has been receiving alternative instruction pursuant to § 13-27-3 who seeks to enroll in Montrose School District, shall be placed in English and math at the level of achievement demonstrated by standardized tests administered to enrolled students of that age, and in all other subjects on a review of transcripts according to this policy. The child's placement may not be in a grade level higher than warranted by the child's chronological age assuming entry into the first grade at age six and annual grade advancement thereafter. After initial placement the child may be advanced according to his/her demonstrated performance.

Any parent or guardian who is dissatisfied with the secondary placement of their child may appeal it to the Secretary of the Department of Education.

Procedures for determining units of credit for high school age students who have attended an unaccredited school or alternative program:

1. The superintendent shall appoint a credit review committee consisting of the high school principal and other secondary staff deemed appropriate. The parents or guardian shall be members. The purpose of the credit review committee is to make recommendations to the Superintendent of Schools, regarding which high school credits should be awarded to the applicant for work completed in the unaccredited school or alternative instruction program. The Superintendent's decision is final unless appealed as provided in this policy.
2. The credit review committee shall ensure that the student enrolling has completed at least one standardized achievement test in the areas of English and Math selected by and administered by the school district.
3. The credit review committee may recommend units of credit for English and Mathematics based on the student's composite Subtest achievement scores in Reading (English) and Mathematics.
4. The proficiency standards for recommending units of credit for the subjects of English and Mathematics shall be the student's composite Subtest state achievement scores for each subject

area. The composite Subtest state achievement scores shall not be recommended for acceptance if more than one standard deviation below the class mean Subtest district achievement scores for each subject area being considered.

5. If the student's achievement test scores or minimum competency test results reflect a severe discrepancy of more than 1.5 standard deviation between Achievement and Intellectual Ability, the grade placement committee may make a referral for consideration of special education services.

6. The credit review committee may recommend units of credit for lower level courses in the subjects English and Mathematics provided the student's Subtest district achievement scores for each subject meet or exceed the proficiency standard for granting units of credit at a higher level. For example, if the student's Subtest state achievement score meets the proficiency standard to be placed in English III, the committee may recommend units of credit for English I and English II.

7. In order to receive units of credit for subjects other than English and Mathematics the credit review committee may direct classroom teachers, who are teachers of the selected subjects, to develop and administer minimum competency tests for their particular subject areas.

7.1 Prior to taking a minimum competency test, the student shall receive a course outline, syllabus, or plan of study, text books, and any other curriculum material that describes the course requirements. The credit review committee shall notify the student of the school district's proficiency standard for passing the subject.

7.2 The student shall have the opportunity to complete the minimum competency test within one year (12 months) from the date the student enrolled in the Montrose School.

7.3 The student completing the minimum competency test shall have an individual test score that meets or exceeds the Montrose district's acceptable proficiency standard for passing the subject prior to granting a unit of credit.

7.4 If the student does not receive a passing score on the minimum competency test, the student shall have the opportunity to retake a comparable version of the minimum competency test one year (12 months) after the date of the first test or complete the course requirements at an accredited summer school program.

8. All students who have attended an unaccredited school or alternative program shall be required to complete the two unit requirements for lab science at the Montrose School, another accredited school district, or at an accredited summer school program. Any costs other than in the Montrose Public School, shall be paid by the 18 year old applicant, parent or guardian.

An 18 year old student, parent or guardian dissatisfied with the Superintendent's decision may appeal the decision to the Secretary of the Department of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The Montrose school district requires all high school students to successfully complete the following (22) units of credit (a unit of credit is defined as successful completion of two

semesters, i.e. 1/2 credit is earned in a class for successful completion of one semester of course work) in order to graduate with a diploma from the Montrose School District.

1. Four units of English/Language Arts including
 - a. 1 1/2 units of composition/grammar;
 - b. 1 unit of literature(1/2 American Lit);
 - c. 1/2 unit of speech;
2. Three units of social studies including:
 - a. 1 unit of US History
 - b. 1/2 unit of US Government
 - c. 1/2 unit of geography
3. Three units of mathematics
4. Three units of laboratory science
5. One-half unit of computer science
6. One unit of fine arts; and
7. Eight units of electives.

Additional Procedures:

If the credit review committee recommends that a student should be placed at a specific grade level or should receive a unit credit, even though the student does not meet the district's proficiency standards. The committee shall include the following documentation in its report:

1. An explanation of why the standards and procedures that are used with the majority of students resulted in invalid findings for this student.
2. The data used to conclude that the student should be placed in a specific grade level or should receive a unit of credit.
3. An explanation of why the data selected for recommending the override had greater relative importance than the achievement test data and minimum competency test data used by the district.
4. Each committee override recommendation shall include a sign-off by all committee members. For those members who disagree with the override recommendation, a statement of why they disagree and their signatures shall be included.
5. All override committee recommendations to override shall be approved by the Superintendent.

Adoption date: August 12, 1996

Reviewed _____

Amended 2014