

Lexington County School District One

Earning High School Credits in the Middle School

Lexington One students have a wonderful opportunity to earn high school credits while in middle school. Earning high school credits now allows students to consider more individualized pathways options, taking advanced course work, participating in dual enrollment, and freeing up space for more elective choices. When a student takes high school credit bearing courses, we strongly encourage students to consider taking Honors, Advance Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) and dual enrollment courses during a student's high school years.

When making this decision, parents and students need to be fully informed about the responsibility and consequences. Taking high school credits in middle school will impact a student's final grade point average (GPA), class ranking and scholarship opportunities. Therefore, this document is provided to help make that informed decision.

In South Carolina, earning high school credits is governed by legislative mandate (SC Code Ann. 59-5-68), and procedural requirements are found in the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy (UGP). The UGP levels the playing field for all South Carolina (SC) high school students especially for state scholarship considerations.

SC Regulation 43-232.1.B permits high school credit for middle school students in 7th and 8th grades. The high school courses offered must be limited to core courses that are currently in the 9-12 section of the Activity Coding System for the Student Information System with the exception of physical education and health education courses. It is expected that students taking courses for high school credit have been taught and have mastered the middle school level standards prior to taking courses for high school credit. All high school courses taken in the middle school will appear on a student's final (high school) transcript.

Withdrawing from a Course:

Students, who withdraw from enrollment in a high school credit-bearing course within three days of a 45-day course, five days in a 90-day course or ten days in a 180 day course, will do so without penalty. VirtualSC withdrawal is 14 days from the start of the course without any penalty.

If the withdrawal is after these periods, a student can withdraw with administrative approval. When this occurs, a WP (withdraw passing) will appear on the transcript. Reasons for administrative approval may include, but are not limited to: transferring out of state, diagnosis of a medical or mental health condition, or an unexpected accident or traumatic situation.

If the withdrawal is without administrative approval, the student receives a WF (withdraw failure) which is recorded as a 50 on the transcript. The WF will be calculated in the student's overall grade point average. Reasons for disapproval may include, but are not limited to: "My student is making a C;" "My child thinks the teacher is too hard;" "My child's friends are not in that class;" "My child discovered he/she now wants to wait until high school to take the course," etc.

Excessive Absences (Failure due to Absences)

As noted in Regulation 43-274 VII(B), students with excessive absences may make up work or demonstrate proficiency as determined by the local school district. If a grade of FA (failure due absences) is assigned, it will carry no earned points; however, it will be factored into the student's GPA as a 50.

Retaking a Course

A 9th grade student may retake a high school-credit bearing course from middle school during his or her ninth grade year at the same difficulty level regardless of the grade he/she has earned. Retaking the course means that the student completes the entire course again (not a subset of the course such as through credit recovery). If the same level course is not accessible, the course at the next level of rigor may be substituted. If the course being retaken has an end-of-course examination, the examination must be retaken. The student, who retakes a high school credit course from middle school, must complete it before the beginning of the second year of high school or before the next sequential course (whichever comes first).

For retakes, all course attempts from the middle and high school will show on the transcript. Only one course attempt and the highest grade earned for the course will be calculated in the GPA.

If you have any questions or concerns, please see your school counselor.