

DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE

Date Reviewed/Approved: 09/08/2009

Policy Number: 3226

Rescinds Policy Number:

Issued:

A student enrolled in a distance learning course, defined as an E-course, virtual or online course, may receive high school credit for work completed, with the following stipulations:

1. The students taking such courses must be enrolled in the Orange County Schools District.
2. The course is offered by an institution approved by the Superintendent or Chief Academic Officer 10 business days prior to enrollment (currently North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS), UNC-G iSchool and Orange County Schools in-house distance learning courses are approved).
3. The building principals must give approval prior to a student enrolling in an online course. Students applying for permission to take a distance learning course shall complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor/building Distance Learning Administrator (DLA) recommendations to assure that the student will be successful.
4. Distance learning courses may not be taken in place of face-to-face courses offered at the student's school.
5. Grading: NCVPS sends grades to the school periodically; other distance learning delivery systems do not. Therefore, students enrolled in a distance learning course agree as a condition of enrollment to surrender their logins and passwords to the building DLA so that the DLA can periodically determine a student's grade/academic progress by logging into the student's account/course. Grades earned in approved distance learning courses (i.e.: NCVPS, UNC-G iSchool and Orange County Schools in-house offerings) count toward a student's grade point average, class rank, and eligibility for athletic and extra-curricular activities. The school must receive an official record of the final grade before credit towards grade point average, class rank, eligibility for athletic and extracurricular activities, and graduation will be applied formally.
6. The students taking distance learning courses shall comply with all district rules, including student rights and responsibilities.

Schools are responsible for informing the Orange County Schools Testing and Accountability Department of any students enrolled in a distance learning course that requires an End-of-Course (EOC) exam and students must sit for the EOC exam during normal testing windows. Exceptions would be students enrolled in alternative learning environments. The DLA should inform the Orange County Schools Testing and Accountability Department in a timely manner that a student has enrolled in an EOC course.

Performance monitoring: The building DLA will monitor students enrolled in distance learning courses.

The Superintendent or Chief Academic Officer reserves the right to waive the items above if deemed to be in the best interest or need of any individual student with the exception of state required EOC courses.

Legal References:

State Board of Education Policy GCS-M-001 or GCS-F-016.
Orange County Board of Education Policy 3225/7320