



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 5, 2014

TO: Nonpublic School Administrators

FROM: Policy Office, Louisiana Department of Education

SUBJECT: High School Credit for Middle School Students

In January 2013, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education approved revisions to the Nonpublic School Bulletin 741, *Louisiana Handbook for School Administration*, to repeal §2117. High School Credit for Elementary Students. The policy previously required middle school students taking a course for high school credit with an educator who is not certified in the secondary level to pass a proficiency exam to receive credit. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) developed a credit exam for Algebra I since it was the most popular Carnegie credit course offered in middle school. School systems were required to submit credit exams for all other high school courses to the LDE for prior approval.

This policy was previously included in both the public and nonpublic versions of Bulletin 741 and was removed from both sets of regulations because it placed an unfair condition on middle school students for a situation beyond their control. While it is strongly recommended that Carnegie credit bearing courses be taught by educators certified in the high school content area, there are no additional course passage requirements for students who are in courses taught by teachers without high school certification. As a result, the LDE will no longer be approving or providing proficiency exams for this purpose.

Under the current regulations in Nonpublic Bulletin 741, students may take Carnegie credit bearing courses in any subject, other than Physical Education, while in middle school. In order to receive credit, students must meet the course obligations determined by the school or the school system and meet the 7,515 instructional minute requirement or pass a proficiency exam or portfolio assessment as part of the Carnegie Credit Flexibility policy found in §2102 of Nonpublic Bulletin 741. Proficiency exams used as part of this section of policy allow students to bypass the course if they already possess the skills or knowledge, not to determine whether students have mastered the content at the end of a course.

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Nonpublic schools may require passage of a final exam for students in any of their courses but the LDE will not be approving exams used for this purpose. Schools that require passage of a final exam for course credit must include the requirement in their school grading policy and extend the requirement to all students enrolled in the course at the school, regardless of the teacher's credentials. It is strongly recommended that the requirement is also consistent for all students enrolled in the course in the school system, if applicable.

For additional information or questions, please contact Bridget Devlin at Bridget.Devlin@la.gov.

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