

**ENFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ENFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

Instruction

6172.6

Distance Education - Remote/Online Courses

The Board of Education believes that education through remote/online courses or through university or college courses is an alternative (effective) means of instruction for students. A remote school is hereby defined as an educational organization that offers courses at various grade levels through Internet or Web-based methods. These schools can offer courses to enhance, supplement or enrich the existing curriculum and can also provide an alternative means of instruction. Interactive distance learning does not require the student to be physically present in the same location as the instructor or other students.

In order to earn credits in meeting the requirements for high school graduation through the successful completion of on-line coursework, the Board, in compliance with C.G.S. 10-221a (g) shall ensure, at a minimum, that (a) the workload required by the on-line course is equivalent to that of a similar course taught in a traditional District classroom setting, (b) the content is rigorous and aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of Education, where appropriate, (c) the course engages students and has interactive components, which may include, but are not limited to, required interactions between students and their teachers, participation in on-line demonstrations, discussion boards or virtual labs, (d) the program of instruction for such on-line coursework is planned, ongoing and systematic, and (e) the courses are (1) taught by teachers who are certified in the state or another state and have received training on teaching in an on-line environment, or (2) offered by institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Department of Higher Education or regionally accredited; or (3) toward meeting the high school graduation requirement upon the successful completion of the board examination series permitting students in grades 9 through 12 to substitute achievement of a passing score on a series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education for meeting credit requirements for graduation.

The Board of Education recognizes students may benefit from on-line courses or post-secondary courses to assist students in obtaining credits necessary to earn a diploma, to maintain academic standings or to provide enrichment for those who might require special courses.

Enfield Public Schools will not use on-line courses as the sole medium for instruction in any required subject area for students in grades K-8.

High school students may also earn a maximum of 4 units of academic credit with no more than 2 credits per semester and earning no more than one credit towards the required credits in each of the core content areas, to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing online courses through agencies approved by the Board unless the Principal waives that provision in writing stating the reasons why, citing whatever circumstances that has caused this waiver. Board approved on-line course delivery must be from institutions accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges or Western Association of Schools and Colleges

Distance Education - Remote/Online Courses (continued)

or, if the institution is foreign, recognized by the Connecticut State Department of Education as having appropriate academic standards.

Credit from an online or remote course or a university/college course may be earned only in the following circumstances:

1. The course is not offered at the Enfield High School.
2. The course will serve as an alternative or a supplement to extended homebound instruction.
3. Enfield Public Schools has expelled the student from the regular school setting, and the student has been offered an alternative educational opportunity.
4. The Principal, or his/her designee, with agreement from the student's teachers and parents/guardians, determines the student requires a differentiated or accelerated learning environment.
5. Students taking such courses must be enrolled in Enfield Public Schools and take the courses during the regular school day at the school site.
6. A student has failed a course required for graduation and is unable to recover credits in that course area through normal scheduling.
7. The student's PPT or Section 504 Team has determined it to be an appropriate means of instruction.

As determined by Board/school policy, students applying for permission to take a remote/on-line course will do the following:

- Complete prerequisites and provide teacher/counselor recommendations to confirm the student possesses the maturity level needed to function effectively in an online/college learning environment.
- Obtain the written approval of the Principal or his/her designee before a student enrolls in a remote course or the university/college course.
- Adhere to the code of conduct of Enfield Public Schools to include rules of behavior and consequences for violations.
- Adhere to attendance requirements of Enfield Public Schools.

The school must receive an official record of the final grade before awarding credit toward graduation. Only approved courses shall be posted on student transcripts.

Distance Education - Remote/Online Courses (continued)

The tuition fee for a remote course shall be borne by Enfield Public Schools for students enrolled full-time. The Board shall pay the fee for expelled students who are permitted to take remote courses in alternative settings.

Through its policies and/or supervision plan, the school shall be responsible for providing appropriate supervision and monitoring of students taking virtual courses. Enrollment in an online course will be allowed only if an appropriately certified teacher is available and willing to supervise the student's participation in the course.

Students will have access to sufficient library media resources such as a "virtual library" available through the World Wide Web, laboratory facilities, technical assistance, and hands-on training and information.

District Review Committee

The Superintendent shall establish a committee to review all distance education courses prior to use by Enfield Public Schools. This committee will be comprised of: central office representative, representative(s) of high school administration, the department coordinator for that specific subject area, a school counseling representative, an educational technology representative, and a representative from special education, if appropriate.

Evaluation

Enfield Public Schools will evaluate the educational effectiveness of the distance education courses and the teaching/learning process to include assessments based on state curriculum standards as well as student outcomes. Enfield Public Schools will use this evaluation to decide to continue or discontinue the use of the distance education course.

(cf. 6141.321 - Computers: Acceptable Use of the Internet)

(cf. 6141.1 - Independent Study)

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures.
10-221a High school graduation requirements. (as amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation and P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses, Other Subject Areas) and P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning Education Reform in Connecticut.
P.A. 21-46 An Act Concerning Social Equity and the Health, Safety and Education of Children.

Policy Adopted: April 26, 2022