

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR FOUR CREDIT CONCENTRATION AREAS

- 1) Each concentration area must be at least four credits focused on student interests and/or postsecondary goals.
- 2) The graduation requirement of a Four Credit Concentration Area may be satisfied by a student completing at least two units of credit beyond minimum graduation requirements as follows:
 - a. Core curriculum areas such as Math, Science, Social Studies and Language Arts
 - i. Math – 6 total credits
 - ii. Science – 5 total credits
 - iii. Social Studies – 6 total credits
 - iv. Language Arts – 6 total credits
 - b. Career and Technical Education
 - i. Four credits within one Career Cluster.
 - ii. At least one credit must be in an advanced or second level course.
 - iii. The four courses can be foundation courses or three from a foundation and one enhancement course.
 - iv. The North Carolina version of Career Clusters is currently under development by NCDPI. More information about Career Clusters can be found at <http://www.careerclusters.org/16clusters.cfm>.
 - c. Arts
 - i. Four credits in an established Arts program area sequence (Examples: chorus, instrumental music, theater, visual arts).
 - ii. A combination of four credits within two or more Arts disciplines may be appropriate depending upon student interests and/or postsecondary goals.
 - iii. At least one credit must be in an advanced or second level course.
 - d. Second Language
 - i. Four credits in an established Second Language sequence (Examples: Spanish, French, and Latin).
 - ii. A combination of two or more Second Languages may be used to complete this concentration.
 - iii. At least one credit must be in an advanced or second level course.
 - iv. Postsecondary goals and college entrance requirements should be considered when identifying courses to complete this concentration (many universities now recommend three years of a Second Language for college admission).
- 3) Four credits in an ROTC sequence will fulfill the Four Credit Concentration Area graduation requirement.
- 4) Four credits in ESL elective classes will fulfill the Four Credit Concentration Area graduation requirement.
- 5) Four credits in Academic/Content Support courses will fulfill the Four Credit Concentration Area for graduation requirements if the student's IEP requires multiple enrollment in the course.

- 6) Three credits in Physical Education in addition to the one credit Health & Physical Education course that is required for graduation will fulfill the Four Credit Concentration Area graduation requirement.
- 7) Credit gained from dual enrollment, virtual learning and other program offerings approved by Buncombe County Schools may be used to satisfy the Four Credit Concentration Area requirement.

B. REVIEW COMMITTEE EXEMPTION PROCEDURES

- 1) The Review Committee shall consist of the Director of Secondary Education, the Director of Career and Technical Education, the Director of Student Services, the Director of Special Services and the High School Assistant Principals in Charge of Curriculum. The ESL Coordinator/Coach may participate in the review process as needed.
- 2) The committee will meet at least once per school year or more as needed to review the Four Credit Concentration Area guidelines.
- 3) The Principal has the discretion to approve additional Four Credit Concentration Areas to address the specific interests and/or postsecondary goals of students based on the following criteria.
 - a. Does it include at least four credits?
 - b. Is it a quality sequence of courses that allows students to focus on their specific interests and/or postsecondary goals?
- 4) In certain circumstances the Principal has the discretion to waive the requirement of a Four Credit Concentration Area.
 - a. Transfer students for whom the number of remaining semesters is insufficient to complete the concentration.
 - b. Other rare extenuating circumstances pending Superintendent approval.

Regulation for Information: November 8, 2012

Revised: April 14, 2016

Revised: March 7, 2019