Toolkit for Foster Youth Education Success

Partial Credit Model Policy

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Why are you here?

You’ll Learn:
1. Why Partial Credits are So Important in Meeting the Needs of Foster Youth
2. How to Issue and Accept Partial Credits for Foster Youth

NOTE: When we refer to foster youth, that includes both foster youth with open dependency court cases and probation youth with open delinquency court cases.
Why half credit increments?

• High numbers of school transfers
• Motivates and rewards foster youth for work, even if only placed for a short time
• Helps with credit accumulation, increasing the odds of on-time graduation
Why does the model policy use the scale of awarding 1 credit per 14 class periods?

• Balance between two competing concerns
  • Requires attendance at an adequate number of classes to earn a full grading period of credits (70/90 days)
  • Prevents penalizing lapses in attendance caused by delays in enrollment and attendance at court appearances or court ordered activities
Why is the model policy based on seat-time?

• The law requires it!
  (Education Code Sections 49069. 5 and 51225.2)

• Must demonstrate competence/receive a passing grade

• Difficulties of testing subject mastery
What about alternative schools?

• Continuation schools, independent study programs, or adult schools

• Approved credit plans (Education Code Section 51225.3(b))

• If not, must have a policy (can use PCMP)
Frequently Asked Questions

• What if my school uses block scheduling?
  • Class periods lasting 89 minutes or less count as 1 class period
  • Class periods lasting 90 minutes or more count as two class periods
If a school district has not yet adopted this model policy, can a registrar/counselor still use these guidelines?

- Yes

- Schools have a legal obligation to calculate, issue, and accept partial credits, even if their school district boards have not yet adopted a partial credit policy
Frequently Asked Questions

• Can receiving schools require youth to complete additional assignments to make up for missed coursework when they transfer into a school?
  • No
  • Penalizes youth based on their foster care status
  • Provide youth with tutoring and support to catch up in their classes
Frequently Asked Questions

• If the school district’s Student Information System does not allow for the input of partial credits on an official transcript, can a registrar/counselor compensate a foster youth by encouraging them to graduate under AB 167/216 instead?
  • No
  • Every school has a legal responsibility to issue and accept partial credits for foster youth when they transfer
  • Only an Education Rights Holder may decide whether a student should graduate under AB 167/216. Foster youth must be given an equal opportunity to satisfy graduation requirements.
Why Are Partial Credits So Important?

David Ambroz
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Questions?
Contact us

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