

### **3.8150 ACADEMIC COURSE CREDIT**

Legal References: G.S. 115C-81  
State Board of Education Policy GCS-M-001

Cross References: 3.8100 PROMOTION AND RETENTION  
3.8105 PROMOTION APPEALS  
3.8110 SUMMER RECOVERY  
3.8200 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND EXIT STANDARDS  
4.2000 ATTENDANCE

#### **I. ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE GRADES**

FLA elementary and middle school students (grades K-8) are evaluated for grading and promotion according to their academic performance in all subjects and by other criteria as set by the Board of Directors (see Board policy 3.8100: PROMOTION AND RETENTION). Promotion is not dependent upon individual course credit. Therefore, credit is not awarded for individual courses; final grades, however, in all courses are recorded in each student's permanent record and are considered in the determination of promotion and retention.

#### **II. HIGH SCHOOL**

**A. Credit Weight.** High school students (grades 9-12) are evaluated for grading and promotion according to the awarding of individual course credit in accordance with Board policy 3.8100: PROMOTION AND RETENTION. Credit weight for every course taken **and passed** (final grade of 70 or above) at the high school level shall be **one unit** unless an exception is approved by the Board upon the recommendation of the high school Principal (or the chief FLA administrator, if different from the high school Principal) for an individual course to carry a different weight. All such exceptions shall be considered and approved or rejected separately by the Board.

**B. State Tests.** All NC SCOS tests relevant to an individual course – including, but not limited to, EOC (End-of-Course) and NCFE (NC Final Exams) – shall be required of all students enrolled in that course and shall be administered as that course's final exam. Students who do not take one of these required tests, regardless of their final grade in the relevant course otherwise, shall **not** be awarded credit for the course. [However, the Board reserves the right unto itself to review such cases on an individual basis in the event of serious hardship and/or unusual circumstances.]

**C. Required Final Exams.** All high school academic courses are required to administer a final exam (see IIB above and IID below). Certain elective courses – including, but not necessarily limited to, Arts and OCS courses – may be exempt from this requirement by action of the high school Principal. The high school Principal shall notify the Board at the beginning of each semester which, if any, courses are exempt from this requirement to administer a final exam. Exempt courses' final grades are determined by student performance throughout the course term only.

**D. Final Exam Weight.** Final exam grades in all high school courses which are required to administer final exams – including State Tests (see IIB above) as well as teacher-made tests – shall be worth 20% of those courses' final course grades for all students taking those courses. [Exception: certain EC students according to the provisions of their respective IEPs.]

### III. HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

A. Impact on Promotion. The North Carolina Standard Course of Study makes opportunities available under certain circumstances for middle school students to take high school coursework. When FLA middle school students are approved to take high school courses, the final course grade in those courses shall be considered the same way which all other final grades are considered in terms of a student's eligibility for promotion.

B. Credit Weight. Students who take **and pass** (final grade of 70 or above) high school courses for which they are eligible and approved, including the final exam (see IIB and IIC above), shall be awarded course credit on their high school transcripts for those courses. High school course credit earned in middle school, however, **does not** count toward the total number of units' credit required for graduation (see Board policy 3.8200 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION AND EXIT STANDARDS). Nor does it count as fulfillment of course requirements in specific subject areas. [Example: a student who takes and passes Math 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade shall receive credit for Math 1 on his/her high school transcript, but shall still be required to earn a minimum total of 28 units, including 4 units of math **taken while enrolled in grades 9-12** in order to be eligible for graduation.]

C. Final Exam Provisions. Provisions IIB, IIC, and IID above **shall be in effect** for all high school courses taken by middle school students. All middle school students enrolled in these courses shall be subject to these provisions.