

Frequently Asked Questions

WVBE Policy 2510 Assuring Quality of Education: Regulations for Education Programs



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

At the middle school level, does a career awareness class have to be added or can we make this part of advisory?

Advisory and Career Awareness are two separate topics. Advisory language can be found under the Social and Emotional Advisory System for Student Success. Note: Career Exploration can be integrated into the school day or may be a stand-alone course.

If a school separates ELA and Reading into two separate classes, can a grade be given for each class or do schools need to combine the grades from the two classes into one ELA Grade?

Policy 2510 now provides scheduling flexibility for middle schools to address deficits in literacy. If providing separate ELA and Reading courses, teachers should be mindful to continue to deliver integrated literacy practices meaning that the 19 standards in the Reading domain should not be pulled out and taught separately from the remaining 22 standards. The ELA and Reading teacher should be collaborating to make sure that ELA is delivered as seamlessly as possible with an emphasis on integrating reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language practices. While it is not required to do so, it is recommended that the ELA and Reading teachers collaborate to provide feedback on student performance and consider averaging course grades together. However, since these are not credit bearing courses, counties may decide how grades will be recorded.

Can any ELA course be used for English 12?

While counties may create courses, based on student interest and need, that may count as English Language Arts 12, the courses are required to meet the standards of the English course for which they substitute. New courses listed as Additional Optional Course Options in Policy 2510 are aligned with the ELA 12 standards.

What scores on SAT are required for a student not to have to enroll in Transition Math or ELA courses? The wording in the policy refers to WVGSA.

While it is encouraged to utilize the transition Math/ELA courses for students who do not meet the benchmark on the WVGSA, the code required Compass® Assessment no longer exists, so Policy 2510 now leaves that decision up to the counties as to who is required to be scheduled into the transition courses. Information on the WVGSA cut scores for English and math proficiency are on the Office of Assessment webpage. It is important to keep in mind NCAA, scholarships, PROMISE, and other college entrance requirements when scheduling students.

Do students need to take a math class every year?

While four mathematics credits are required, the need for students to enroll in a mathematics course every year is a county decision.

Students are required to take Algebra I, Geometry, and then two additional math courses? Is Algebra II, which has always been a requirement, still required?

Algebra II should be the requirement for all college-bound students.

What math course options are available for students who are not going to be taking AP® or other advanced math options?

Options found in Policy 2510 include Applied Statistics, Advanced Mathematical Modeling, Financial Algebra, Statistics, Probability and Statistics, Computer Science and Mathematics, Technical Transition Math, and Transition Mathematics for Seniors. Standards for these courses can be found in either Policy 2520.2B or in the Policy 2510 guidance document found on the Office of Middle and Secondary Learning webpage.

Advanced Mathematical Modeling is listed as an honors class, should it be?

Policy 2510 does not identify honors courses. Identifying courses as honors courses is a local school/county level decision. There are no separate standards for honors courses.

When will we be able to offer Applied Statistics? Will it be appropriate between Geometry and Algebra II? Will the standards be written to get NCAA approval?

While it is ultimately a school/county level decision, Applied Statistics was designed as an alternate to Algebra II for non-college bound students with two goals: SAT support and application of math skills. The standards are available in the Policy 2510 guidance document. The new courses listed in Policy 2510, but not in Policy 2520.2B, have not been approved by colleges and universities; therefore, students need to be made aware that this course will not meet the college admissions requirements for Algebra II. The acceptance of these new courses by West Virginia colleges and universities is currently under review. NCAA approval is a school responsibility. The WVDE is not able to submit standards for approval.

Which social studies credit will JROTC I-IV take the place of?

JROTC I-IV will take the place of the personalized credit in social studies. However, if a student is required to take both US Studies and Contemporary Studies, instead of the AP® or US Comprehensive course, JROTC I-V could be substituted in place of contemporary studies.

Do social studies courses have to be taught in a particular order?

Yes. The change in social studies requirements only starts with the 2020-2021 freshman cohort. All other students will be able to follow the previous Policy 2510 social studies requirements.

Will next year's sophomores through seniors still follow the social studies requirements where they can substitute any social studies option their junior year?

Yes, the change in social studies requirements only starts with the 2020-2021 freshman cohort. All other students will be able to follow the previous Policy 2510 social studies requirements.

Can schools/counties substitute any Dual Credit course for PE and Health courses if it is placed in county policy, or do the Dual Credit courses have to follow current state standards?

All Dual Credit courses are required to meet the standards for the high school course it is replacing in addition to the college course. If the course is being used as a replacement for a graduation requirement, the county is assuring that the students are mastering the standards of the required high school course.

Is Dual Credit pretty much local decision? It looks like it can pretty much take the place of anything now.

As always, when offering Dual Credit, each county must assure the college course offering aligns with an existing high school course for which students receive credit. If there are no state-level standards created, the county is required to create standards for the high school course for which they receive credit. The course and standards must be approved by the local board prior to submission to the WVDE.

Will graded interscholastic PE only count for incoming 9th graders?

This course will count for any student once the county has adopted an interscholastic PE plan.

What is the Seal of Biliteracy? How is proficiency tested?

This policy is in the development stage but will be implemented during the 2020-2021 academic year. Students will have to show proficiency in English and in another language through assessments approved by the WVBE. The Seal of Biliteracy will be designated on the high school transcript. Further details will be distributed at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

Is the PEP required to be signed each time a Dual Credit course is substituted?

Yes. Here is the exact language from Policy 2510:

- » 6.4.a.1. Students may substitute one of the following in place of a course as listed in the applicable high school program of study: 1) an AP® course; 2) an IB® course; 3) an AC course; or 4) a dual credit or college course in accordance with approved county policy. The student's parent and/or guardian must approve by signing the student's PEP.
- » 6.4.a.1.A. Such substitution requests must be approved by the county superintendent (or designee) and principal. The decision as to whether a substitute course will count as credit must be based on its applicability to the student's 5-year PEP, post-secondary goals, and/or program of study. Schools shall provide information regarding the availability of advanced courses to students and parents and strongly encourage students to take such courses based upon student interests and post-secondary goals.
- » 6.4.a.1.B. The student and his or her parent and/or guardian must be advised of the decision of the superintendent (or designee) and the impact of the substitute course on the student's preparation for college, other post-secondary education, or gainful employment identified in the student's PEP.6.4.a.1.C. To ensure this process has been followed, the parent and/or guardian and student each must sign and receive a copy of the modified PEP.

Will we have two graduation plans now? One for the previous 2510 for 10-12 graders and this one for incoming 9th graders? Or do some parts of the revision go into effect for everyone?

There is no change in Policy 2510 that would require a schedule change for any students in grades nine through 12. The only change which could result in different graduation plans is the requirement of Contemporary Studies following US Studies for the 2020-2021 freshman cohort, unless they meet certain exemptions.

Will counselors be provided flow charts based on career pathways to help with scheduling?

No. There are no defined career pathways in policy. Counselors and principals should review requirements in Policy 2510 and Policy 2520.13 (CTE Policy) prior to scheduling. Moving forward, the PEP will be online which should improve the scheduling and PEP process.

Is there a state standard for weighted classes?

Beginning July 1, 2020, Policy 2510 requires AP®, Advanced Careers, and Dual Credit courses to be weighted equally. The weighting of other courses is determined at the local school/county level and should be reflected in the county grading policy.

Can you offer a separate weighted AP® laboratory course?

The College Board’s lab requirement states that 25% of the instructional experience should take place in a laboratory setting with an emphasis on inquiry-based investigations that provide students with opportunities to apply science practices. The AP® course, including the lab experience, should make up one final grade. The two should not be separate AP® credits or AP® grades. Counties may choose to offer an additional lab time in the schedule as a second elective credit. This elective lab credit should not be weighted.

Can courses taken for high school credit be pass/fail?

No. All courses taken for high school credit must follow the uniform grading scale found in Policy 2510 subsection 9.1.h.