



Procedures and Guidelines for 21 Credit High School Diploma Program

Rationale

The 21 Credit High School Diploma Program will target at-risk students, who are experiencing difficulty meeting the specified local requirements of 28 credits for graduation. The rationale of the program is to provide another avenue for Franklin County Schools' students to earn a high school diploma.

Criteria

Students must meet specific conditions to be approved for the program, which include at least two or more of the following:

1. Chronic truancy
2. Chronic behavior problems
3. Academic/credit deficiencies
4. Previous dropout
5. Retained at least once
6. Environmental, psychological, and/or physiological challenges, such as:
 - Substance abuse
 - Depression
 - Pregnancy
 - Parental responsibilities
 - Behavior problems
 - Judicial problems

Requirements for Acceptance into the Program

- Student and parent/guardian sign an individual educational contract.
- Parents or guardians meet with the North Carolina 21 Credit High School Diploma Committee to sign an agreement.
- A panel including the school principal, guidance counselor, student support specialist (dropout counselor), central office representative and other personnel if appropriate will be responsible for the final determination of acceptance into the program.

Other Criteria

- Seniors wishing to make application to the 21 credit high school diploma program must do so prior to the end of the first semester of their senior year.
- The panel may consider extenuating circumstances that are not included by the requirements described above.

Adopted: 10/22/07