



ISLESBORO CENTRAL SCHOOL
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To: Islesboro School Department School Board
Fr: Jess Woods, School Counselor
Re: Proposed Credit Changes for Health and Pathways
Cc: Heather Knight, Patrick Phillips

June 6, 2017

I am proposing the following changes to the current Islesboro Central School Graduation Requirements.

- Reduction in the Health Credit Requirements from 1 credit to .5 credit
- Introduction of Elective Credit to be awarded for Pathways Experiences

Health Rationale:

We currently require one credit of high school health. This semester our health teacher determined that it is possible to cover the standards necessary in a condensed version (one semester) of the course. For this reason, and due to the implementation of a health course for middle school students beginning next year, I ask that you consider this reduction in graduation requirement.

The state does not have specific health and physical education credit requirements for diploma awarding. It is stated that: Each school subject to the provisions of this section shall ensure sufficient opportunity and capacity through multiple pathways for all students to study and achieve proficiency in the areas of:

D. Health, physical education and wellness; [2007, c. 259, §5 (AMD).

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-a/title20-Asec6209.html>

<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/20-a/title20-asec4722.html>

Regionally, Belfast Area High School and Camden Hills Regional High School both require .5 credit of Health in order to graduate. Mount View High School and Oceanside High School require one credit.

Pathways Rationale:

Through the ICS Pathways Program students have the opportunity to participate in approved career exploration and job shadowing opportunities. For students who would like to participate in these opportunities for a sustained period of time, elective credit will be awarded.

I propose that the credit be awarded in the amount of .5 credit per semester per class block of time spent engaged with the job shadow/internship. For example: if a student were to spend two class blocks on

every blue day for a semester, they would receive one full credit. If they spent two class blocks for every blue day for the year, they would receive two credits. If they spent two blocks on both blue and gray days for the year, they would receive four credits. This is the same method used to award credit from MCST and here at ICS.

Credit awarding will allow for a student's transcript to reflect the time spent on their career experience/internship, which will substantiate their experience to post-secondary institutions. Additionally, in order for credit to be awarded, a grade must accompany the course. I would suggest that all Pathways Career Experience/Internship courses be graded with a P/F. Students would receive a P when their career experience/internship has concluded and their accompanying paperwork has been completed.