

### CREDIT FLEXIBILITY POLICY

Senate Bill 311 (Ohio Core Legislation) raised the graduation requirements for high school students with the goal of increasing the number of students who are ready to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century global and technological demands. It included among its several provisions a requirement that by March 31, 2009, the State Board of Education adopt a plan that enables “students to earn units of high school credit based on a demonstration of subject area competency, instead of or in combination with completing hours of classroom instruction.” The term for this requirement is referred to as Credit Flexibility (Credit Flex).

Findlay City Schools’ (FCS) plan for Credit Flex is designed to broaden the scope of curricular options available to students, increase the depth of study possible for a particular subject and allow tailoring of learning time and/or conditions. Credit Flex will focus on performance, not counting seat hours. Credit Flex will acknowledge and address students’ differing learning styles, paces and interests, offering students the opportunity to demonstrate creativity, explore academic and career interests, and practice critical thinking.

All students in grades 9-12 can earn credit towards graduation four ways: by completing traditional coursework, by testing out or otherwise demonstrating mastery of the course content, by pursuing one or more educational options through Credit Flex and by any combination of the before-mentioned ways. A student may apply for Credit Flexibility on an on-going basis.

The Carnegie Unit will be retained while students will have options for demonstrating subject area competency. There will be no limit to the kinds of course work or to the number of credits that can be earned unless the number of Credit Flexibility requests exceeds the capacity of the school to honor those requests. Credit will be reported on student transcripts in the same way that seat time credit is reported.

Teachers will determine credit equivalency for a Carnegie Unit, and other mechanisms (e.g., the use of a multi-disciplinary teaching team, a professional panel from the community or a state performance-based assessment) may be used to determine credit.

The FCS Board of Education will establish implementation policies and will communicate this provision annually to parents and students through a variety of methods including the FCS website and Findlay High School counselors.

The FCS Board of Education will review this policy every two years and collect performance data including: the number of participating students, total credits earned and the extent to which student participation reflects diversity of the student body.

An appeals process will be available should a student’s proposed Credit Flex be denied by the school or district.

The superintendent/designee will approve through signature the Credit Flex proposal.

The policy will be accessed at the superintendent’s office and the FCS website.

Information about the policy will be available in the high school principal’s office.