



Credit Flexibility Full Implementation Waiver General Guidance and Instructions School Year 2010-2011

In accordance with Section 3313.603(J) of the Ohio Revised Code and the State Board of Education's adopted plan for Credit Flexibility, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, all school districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools shall permit 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. Credit Flexibility dictates that students must have opportunities to earn high school credits through flexible methods. These include traditional coursework, dual credit options, educational options, testing out or some combination of methods.

Providing access to a full range of Credit Flexibility options during the 2010-2011 school year may create challenges for some school districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools that need additional time to complete their processes for full implementation of the State Board's Credit Flexibility Plan. To accommodate this need, a one-year waiver, valid only for the 2010-2011 school year, may be granted for component(s) of the Credit Flexibility Plan requiring more time to develop. It is the expectation that all other aspects of the plan be made available during the 2010-2011 school year and that the plan is fully implemented thereafter.

The waiver application is available by going to education.ohio.gov and searching for keyword: *Credit Flexibility Waiver*. Districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools must submit the waiver application along with two attachments: [1] a dated copy of the local school/governing board resolution that contains: [A] a request for delay of the specific portion of the Credit Flexibility Plan; and [B] the date by which that portion will be fully implemented; and [2] a brief description of the activities that will be undertaken to complete the plan for full implementation by at least the 2011-2012 school year.

Waiver requests must be submitted to the Ohio Department of Education no later than July 1, 2010. The waiver request must be submitted in hard copy and signed by the LEA superintendent. Waiver applications will be reviewed as they are received. ODE will notify the district superintendent of approval via letter no later than August 1, 2010.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document may be accessed by going to education.ohio.gov and searching for keyword: *Credit Flexibility Waiver*. Additional questions regarding the waiver application may be addressed to Diana.Branham@ode.state.oh.us.

Notes:

- ORC §3313.603(J) states that **"The state board of education, in consultation with the chancellor of the Ohio board of regents, shall adopt a statewide plan implementing methods for 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 state board shall adopt the plan not later than March 31, 2009, and commence phasing in the plan during the 2009-2010 school year."**
- The State Board of Education adopted a Credit Flexibility Plan on March 10, 2009 applicable to districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools beginning in the school year 2010-2011.
- If full implementation of the Credit Flexibility Plan is difficult to implement in the 2010-2011 school year, school districts, community schools and chartered nonpublic schools may apply for a waiver no later than July 1, 2010, citing the specific aspect of full implementation unable to be fulfilled and the date by which that will be completed.