



## Senate File 2318 High School Credit

### Introduction

Relating to the issuance of high school credit for satisfactory completion of high school-level units of instruction.

### Required Actions

Iowa Code Section 256.7, subsection 26, paragraph a, subparagraph (1)

(1) The rules establishing high school graduation requirements shall provide that any student, at any grade level, who satisfactorily completes a high school-level unit of instruction at a school accredited under section 256.11 has satisfactorily completed a unit of the high school graduation requirements for that area of instruction and the school district or accredited nonpublic school of enrollment shall issue high school credit for the unit to the student unless the student is unable to demonstrate proficiency or the school district or accredited nonpublic school determines that the course unit completed by the student does not meet the school district's or accredited nonpublic school's standards, as appropriate. If a student is denied credit under this subparagraph, the school district or accredited nonpublic school denying credit shall provide to the student's parent or guardian in writing the reason for the denial.

### Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Response
1. Does this law change district offer and teach requirements for high school?	No. This law allows students younger than 9th grade to earn high school credit. Districts and nonpublic high schools are required to meet minimum offer and teach requirement for grades 9-12.
2. Must a student completing a high school-level unit of instruction prior to 9th grade be identified and participating in a gifted program?	No. This law allows any student who satisfactorily completes a high school-level unit of instruction to earn high school credit.
3. We have an 8/9 building and courses such as physical education, Modern Language and Family Consumer Science may have both 8th and 9th graders in the same class. Do 8th graders receive high school credit in this situation?	If the 9th graders are receiving high school credit and 8th graders are learning the same content, then yes, 8th graders are satisfactorily completing a high school-level unit of instruction.
4. If a student completes Algebra 1 prior to 9th grade, can we award elective credit instead of math credit? We want the student to continue to take 3 or 4 years of high school math.	No. Iowa Code 256.7 reads that the student is considered to have satisfactorily completed a unit of the high school graduation requirements <u>for that area of instruction</u> .
5. Does this mean that a student could meet the graduation requirements for math (or another	Yes, this is possible. Districts may encourage students to continue to take courses in a content

Question	Response
content area) in their sophomore year or sooner?	area after the minimum requirements for graduation are met, but it cannot be a requirement.
6. From a course coding perspective, should a district plan to continue to use non-secondary coding for things like 8th grade geometry courses, or should we begin using high school SCED classification?	SCED codes are a national framework for courses and their alignment. The district must determine if the 8th grade course is a secondary level course or non-secondary course and assign the appropriate coding.
7. Will the high school credit for 8th graders, or younger students, transfer to a high school Grade Point Average (GPA)?	This is a local decision.
8. If a student in a non-high school grade took a high school course two years ago, does the school have to award high school credit now?	No. The requirements in SF 2318 are not retroactive.
9. If a student in a non-high school grade takes a high school course but does not demonstrate proficiency in the subject or does not meet the standards, is the district required to award the student HS credit for the course?	No.
10. Is there any situation in which the credit can be denied?	Yes. If the student is unable to demonstrate proficiency or it is determined the course does not meet the district/school standards. Then the district/school shall provide to the parents in writing the reason for the denial of credit.
11. Who determines if a student demonstrates proficiency in a course and/or meets the standards?	This is a local decision.
12. What does it mean to notify the student's parent or guardian in writing if the student will not receive credit for a high school course taken prior to high school?	Notification in writing must be an active notification to the parent or guardian whether via email or on paper. It is not posting information and relying on the parent to find it, such as posting grade information online.
13. What recourse does a parent or guardian have if a district denies credit to a student who took a high school course prior to high school?	Parents or guardians may appeal to the local school board. If the local school board also denies credit the parents/guardians may pursue the issue in district court. There is no avenue for appeal to the Iowa Department of Education.
14. Is the district/school required to accept course work done by a student as home school or from an unaccredited school?	No, courses from a public or nonpublic Iowa accredited district/school are the subject of SF 2318. Follow local board policy for credits from an unaccredited school or home school. <a href="#">Link to directory of accredited Iowa schools.</a>
15. Is the district/school required to accept course work done by a student in another state?	This is a local decision - follow board policy.

Question	Response
16. May a student prior to 9th grade take a concurrent enrollment/Senior Year Plus course to earn high school credit?	Iowa Code 261E reads Senior Year Plus programming is for students enrolled in grades 9-12.
17. If a student takes an online high school course prior to high school must they receive high school credit?	The student must receive credit if the course is taught by a state accredited school or Iowa Learning Online.

## Additional Guidance

For additional guidance, contact the district's or school's assigned [School Improvement Consultant](#).