

Series 600 – Educational Program

The primary goal of the Newton Community School District is to provide a student-centered approach to education with opportunities for each child to attain full educational development. This challenge requires efforts to assist students who have not been able to achieve success in regular high school programs as well as academically talented students who seek additional instruction in areas beyond the scope of the regular education program. Such efforts lead to the development of alternatives. Development of such alternatives should follow regulations set forth in this section and be approved by the Board of Directors. Special provisions must be secured from the building administrator for enrollment in any alternative educational program.

1. Independent Study

Independent study is available to organize student exploration of a subject or areas of study so that students may examine an area of interest in depth under the direction of a Newton Community School District faculty member or department. Students should indicate their intent to enroll in independent study options at the time they register for the next year's school courses.

2. Correspondence

Correspondence courses from accredited institutions may be taken to make up credit deficiencies. Credits earned from correspondence courses may not be used to accelerate a student's date of graduation before the completion of eight semesters. A student enrolling in a correspondence course must have a faculty member oversee his/her work in such course.

3. Performance Testing For Classroom Credit

Performance testing for course work which is ordinarily included in the school curriculum will not be allowed.

4. Basics and Beyond High School

Basics and Beyond High School offers educational opportunities for high school students who are behind in earning credits for graduation, who are at risk of dropping out of school or who have dropped out of school.

5. Post-Secondary Education

The Newton Community School District believes that for certain students early exposure to post-secondary education and increased challenge can be beneficial and worthwhile. The District offers the opportunity to enroll in post-secondary courses to 9th and 10th grade students identified as gifted and talented according to district criteria and to all 11th and 12th grade students. The opportunity offers the student the advantages of earning advanced credit earlier than is normally the case, of having the time to explore post-secondary education without a full financial commitment to the institution, and of having the opportunity for advanced work beyond that which the high school may offer.

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6. Dual Credit

Dual credit classes (dual enrollment) are offered at Newton Senior High School in selected subject areas. A dual credit class provides both high school and college credit to those students who have successfully met the necessary eligibility requirements as determined by Newton Senior High School and the college awarding the credit.

Information and guidelines regarding the post-secondary enrollment options will be distributed annually in order to assist students and their parents/guardians in making knowledgeable decisions regarding participation and to assist school districts in planning for the following year. Students should indicate their intent to enroll in post-secondary options at the time they register for the next year's school courses.

It is not the intent of this policy to encourage early high school graduation.

Date of Adoption	08/14/1989
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Legal Ref.: Iowa Code Section 280.12
Iowa Administrative Code 3.5(7), 3.5(10), 3.5(14).
Iowa Code Section 282.26

Cross Ref.: Board Policy
601.1 School District Instructional Organization
602.7 Gifted and Talented Program
605.4 Graduation Requirements