

EQUITY IN DETERMINING GRADE PLACEMENT AND CREDIT

New Hampshire law dictates that any student between the ages of 6 and 21 who is a legal resident of a school district is entitled to attend the public school supported by that district, until the child acquires a high school diploma or has reached age 21, whichever occurs first.

Under normal circumstances, a student matriculates from the eighth grade to the freshman year of high school or from one high school year to the next. The transition procedures become more challenging when a student is transferring into a given high school under different circumstances. Students may transfer from alternative schools, non-public schools, non-recognized schools or schools in other countries. They may also come from home schooling or be homeless or migrants.

When assessing a request for placement other than an initial entry for freshmen, students must provide suitable documentation. Documentation may be in the form of:

- A transcript from an approved school (including an out-of-state correspondence school)
- Test scores indicating competence
- Student portfolios
- A combination of the above mentioned information sources

For most transfer students, documentation of credit earned in institutions of equal status (other high schools, approved non-public schools and accredited correspondence schools) represents sufficient documentation.

Absent any documentation, the receiving school must determine a proper placement through an evaluation and decision-making process that applies equally to students. All transfer students, including students from other countries and home schooled students should be placed and a plan for graduation developed that uses equal or equivalent practice. The receiving district does not grant or manufacture credits for prior work/accomplishment done by the transfer student. The receiving school recognizes these credits and equivalent accomplishments. To ensure equal treatment of all transferring students, the guidelines below must be followed:

- Prior study and credit is to be reviewed for placement purposes and to plan for graduation.
- When placement has been determined, the number and distribution of credits needed to graduate from the receiving school can be established in accordance with state and local requirements.

- State and local graduation requirements for a diploma shall be met as a result of an initial proper placement and a plan toward graduation as described above.
- The graduation plan for any remaining credit and the fulfillment of state and local credit and distribution requirements should be planned with participation from the district, student and parent/legal guardian.
- Prior work/accomplishment/credit is not to be evaluated with regard to a possible one-to-one transfer of specific credits as though they were earned at the receiving school.

For the purposes of determining class rank, all students (including home schooled students) must have a minimum of three (3) semesters at the receiving high school to be eligible and included in the School District's senior and final class ranking system.

References:

RSA 189:1-a (Duty to Provide Education)
Ed 306.18(a) (Basic Instructional Standards)

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