

North Providence School Department North Providence High School Early College Access Policy	First Read: 5/27/15 Second Read: 6/24/15 Third Read: 7/22/15

Through formal agreements with local colleges and universities, NPHS students can take college courses to simultaneously earn credit at both the high school and postsecondary institutions at a reduced cost. Concurrent enrollment are college courses that are approved by the postsecondary institution to be taught at the high school, by a high school teacher whose credentials are reviewed and approved by the postsecondary institution. Dual enrollment courses are part of the postsecondary institution’s regular schedule and are taught by a college professor on the college campus.

These dual/concurrent options are designed for highly motivated RI high school students, typically juniors and seniors, who seek rigorous academic challenge and want to get a head start on college. The primary benefit of early college access opportunities is a decrease in the time and expense of obtaining a college degree. Furthermore, research shows that students who take college classes while still in high school are less likely to be placed in remedial coursework, are more likely to enroll and stay in college and complete a degree on time. Students receive an official college transcript upon completion of the coursework. Therefore if students drop the course after the deadline or receive a failing grade, it may impact their financial aid and/or GPA during college in the future.

Students must contribute all of the cost of providing concurrent/dual enrollment programming. No low-income student, as defined by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), shall be denied access to concurrent/dual enrollment coursework on their ability to pay course related tuition and fees. Students may qualify for financial assistance through the “Prepare RI Initiative” and can obtain more information on the RIDE website. Students and/or families are responsible for scheduling and transportation for dual enrollment coursework at a postsecondary institution. Eligible students with disabilities will be provided with appropriate accommodations.

Students who are interested in Early College Access options should speak to their guidance counselor who can provide information, as well as provide the name and contact information of the NPHS faculty member who coordinates each program. Information about each specific program is contained in the NPHS Course of Study available at the school or online on the school website, <http://npsd.k12.ri.us/nphs>. Additionally, academic and financial information governed by the college/university about each program, including guidelines, eligibility, criteria, credit acceptance, and financial assistance is available in the Course Catalog and on the website of the sponsoring post-secondary institution. NPHS distributes written information and holds an assembly each fall for students interested in these programs. Further, each year guidance counselors meet with students in the scheduling process to provide information for them and their families regarding concurrent/dual

enrollment options. The sponsoring postsecondary institutions provide NPHS with course rosters, grades assigned, and transcripts to track student enrolment in and completion of dual/concurrent coursework. Results are printed on NPHS student transcripts.

Eligibility criteria for Concurrent Enrollment opportunities:

- Students must maintain a minimum of a “B” average in the course content area
- Teacher and/or department chair recommendation
- Parental approval
- Any other criteria required by the sponsoring postsecondary institution

Eligibility criteria for Dual Enrollment opportunities:

- Complete all NPHS Diploma System course credit requirements with the exception of Twelfth Grade English, the fourth math related requirement, and Physical Education/Health
- Complete all NPHS Diploma System Performance-Based Graduation Requirements (PBGR’s)
- Earn a 2.0 GPA
- Principal and guidance counselor approval
- Parental approval
- Attendance and conduct history will be considered
- Any other criteria required by the sponsoring postsecondary institution

Early College Access Opportunities available at NPHS include:

Early Enrollment Program (EEP): Juniors and seniors take honors courses in various subjects at NPHS and earn transferable college credits through Rhode Island College. (Concurrent Enrollment)

Advanced Placement (AP): Juniors and seniors take AP courses in various subjects at NPHS and complete the College Board standardized final examination. (Concurrent Enrollment)

Early Credit High School Program: Juniors and seniors take courses at NPHS and earn transferable college credits through the University of Rhode Island (URI Writing). (Concurrent Enrollment)

Law, Public Safety, and Security Project: Students can take courses in science (Forensics) and social studies (Law & Society, Criminal Justice) to earn transferable college credits to Roger Williams University. (Concurrent Enrollment)

Information Technology: Students can enroll in the course Information Technology to earn a transferable college credit to New England Institute of Technology. (Concurrent Enrollment)

Project Running Start: Qualified seniors may complete their final year of high school as a full-time student at Community College of R.I. (Dual Enrollment)

High School Enrichment Program: For enrichment purposes, students can earn six (6) college credits per semester at Community College of R.I. which may be accepted at NPHS for courses that are not available at the high school. (Dual Enrollment)

Project Access: Qualified seniors may complete their final year of high school as a full-time student at Johnson & Wales University. (Dual Enrollment)