



## *Haywood County Schools*

1230 North Main Street  
Waynesville, NC 28786  
828 456 2400

Anne G. Garrett, Ed., D.  
Superintendent

Dear Parents and Students,

Starting in 2015, students will be able to earn credit for a course without spending a set number of hours taking the course in a classroom. Under the state's new Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) option, uniquely qualified students may "test out" or bypass a course if they have already mastered the content. The program provides an opportunity for students to challenge themselves with the next level of rigor in a subject, and possibly graduate early.

According to NCDPI's "Implementation Guide for Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM)" <http://cdm.ncdpi.wikispaces.net/CDM+Implementation+Guide> any student who is "able to demonstrate a deep understanding of the knowledge and skills required of a particular course will earn credit for that course so that he/she may spend their time more effectively in another course where they will learn and experience new content and material." All students in North Carolina Public Schools in grades 9-12 are eligible to request an opportunity to earn credit by demonstrating mastery for available courses. Middle school students may request a CDM opportunity for high school courses offered in grades 6-8.

The decision to pursue this option must be a shared decision between parent and student. This is a rigorous program that a student may only pursue once per course. Students and parents must complete an application in order to begin the Credit by Demonstrated Mastery process, which will occur in two separate phases.

In Phase I, students will take the appropriate exam for the subject. The exam testing window will open on February 16th. Students must score a Level V on an EOC, greater than 94% on a Final Exam, or a minimum of a 93 on the CTE Exam. The application may be found at <http://www.haywood.k12.nc.us/resources/parentscommunity/>.

Students passing Phase I criteria will continue to Phase II. In Phase II students will create an artifact that reflects deep understanding of the content standards, including the ability to apply the skills and knowledge expected at the end of the course. This may require a presentation, project, interview, portfolio, etc., as established by the school system. Upon acceptable completion of the artifacts, the CDM committee will make a recommendation for the student to earn credit.

If the student is successful, the course will be recorded on the transcript with a grade of "Pass". The course will count toward meeting graduation requirements, but no numerical grade or quality points will be granted. The Grade Point Average will not be affected.

For a list of course offering or more information, please go to <http://www.haywood.k12.nc.us/resources/parentscommunity/> or <http://cdm.ncdpi.wikispaces.net> or call 828-456-2400.

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