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**EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (ELO)****HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT BY MEANS OF ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTION**

## Purpose

The Conway School Board encourages students to pursue extended learning opportunities (ELO) as a means of acquiring knowledge and skills through instruction or study that is outside the traditional classroom methodology. Extended learning opportunities may include, but are not limited to, independent study, private instruction, performing groups, internships, community service, apprenticeships, online courses/distance education, or other opportunities approved by the Principal or his/her designee, in conjunction with Board policies.

The purpose of extended learning opportunities is to provide educational experiences that are meaningful and relevant, and that provide students with opportunities to explore and achieve at high levels. In order to maximize student achievement and meet diverse pathways for learning, this policy permits students to employ extended learning opportunities that are stimulating and intellectually challenging, and that enable students to fulfill or exceed the expectations set forth by State minimum standards and applicable Board policies.

## Roles and Responsibilities

All programs of study must meet or exceed the proficiencies and skills identified by the New Hampshire State Board of Education, applicable rules and regulations of the Department of Education, and all applicable Board policies. All programs of study proposed through this program shall have specific instructional objectives aligned with the State minimum standards and the District curriculum and competency standards. All extended learning opportunities will comply with applicable laws and regulations, including child labor laws and regulations governing occupational safety.

## Procedure

Pursuant to Educational Standard 306.23 (i), the Conway School Board approves the awarding of high school credit by alternative means of instruction per the following criteria:

- The alternative instruction must be aligned with key learning targets of regular school curriculum.
- The student must pass a final examination or complete other appropriate assessments aligned with the key learning targets as determined by the principal.

- The student's application to earn credit by alternative means is approved by an Alternative Instruction Committee prior to the term in which the course begins. The principal, in extenuating circumstances, may approve a late application.

The principal (or principal's designee) is responsible for approval, supervision, and monitoring of alternative instruction.

The Conway School Board, through its policy review process, will determine the number of credits that a student can earn through alternative instruction.

Procedures for issuing alternative credit will be communicated to students and families annually in the Program of Studies or other written documents.

The superintendent will report alternative credits earned, by students and course, semiannually to the Conway School Board.

Independent Study is an opportunity to meet graduation requirements through learning experiences above and beyond regular course studies. Because of the unique nature of this option, a student must first meet with a guidance counselor to discuss the feasibility of this route. If the student and counselor agree that independent study is appropriate, then the student will submit a written proposal to a teacher, department head in the relevant subject area, or to an administrator. The Alternative Instruction Committee will then review the proposal.

Adopted by the Conway School Board – January 6, 1994

Reviewed with no change - August 1999

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Reviewed with no change – August 12, 2009

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