

Fact Bullet Points for Awarding 1 Credit for 1 Credit Courses, January 12, 2012

- The Secondary Design Team, after over a year spent planning, consulting, communicating, and surveying, recommends changing our practice of awarding credit in ½ credit units for full-credit courses to awarding 1 credit at the completion of each full course. One-half credit courses such as Health and PE will continue to be assigned ½ credits upon completion. Other exceptions can be made when necessary.
- This change is supported by our instructional and technology leadership and professional staff at the building and central office level. This recommendation is in the best interest of students and provides greater efficiencies for teachers, administrative staff, counseling staff, technology staff, and athletic directors.
- Mainly, we are seeking to move away from a system that does not encourage or reward student growth over the full time period for a course and to replace it with one that does.

Jay Thomas, Principal, AHS:

Devs Francis, Principal, WAHS:

Cathy Worley, Principal, MoHS:

Ashby Kinder, Principal, MHS:

Meghan Parsons, Counseling Director, AHS:

Amy Wright, Counseling Director, WAHS:

Laura Gunlocks, Counseling Director, MoHS:

Ghny Elgart, Counseling Director, MHS:

Matt Haas, Executive Director, ACPG:

[Handwritten signatures over the list of names]

- All of the following stakeholder groups were visited for communication:
 - Abernethy County Parent Council: April 12, 2011
 - Abernethy County Teacher Advisory: May 11, 2011
 - WAHS PT&O: May 16, 2011
 - Murrey High School Staff: May 17, 2011
 - County Student Advisory Council: May 17, 2011
 - AHS Staff Meeting (invitation): May 17, 2011
 - AHS PT&O: May 18, 2011
 - WAHS Department Chair Meeting: May 18, 2011
 - MoHS Staff Meeting: May 23, 2011
 - MoHS PT&O: June 6, 2011

- When surveyed last spring and asked how they prefer for credits to be awarded, stakeholders responded in this way:
 - Middle and High School Principals and Assistant Principals
 - Surveyed April 27 -- May 4, 2011
 - 16 Responses:
 - 1 No Preference
 - 14 Prefer Whole Credits
 - 1 Prefers Half Credits
 - Middle and High School Counselors
 - Surveyed April 27 -- May 4, 2011
 - 21 Responses:
 - 1 No Preference
 - 18 Prefer Whole Credits
 - 1 Prefers Half Credits
 - Parents / Families of 8th through 12th Graders
 - Surveyed June 10-17, 2011
 - 259 Responses:
 - 35 No Preference
 - 201 Prefer Whole Credits
 - 23 Prefer Half Credits
 - High School Teachers
 - Surveyed June 6-10, 2011
 - 75 Responses:
 - 11 No Preference
 - 46 Whole Credits
 - 18 Half Credits
- The current practice of awarding ½ credit for each half of a course penalizes a student by not allowing for improvement of a grade as she masters course content and improves performance. For several "sequential" courses, including our math courses needed for graduation, we currently pull students from a course based on failing the first half-credit.
- Awarding one credit per course is the standard practice throughout Virginia. Our current use of ½ credits is unorthodox and does not translate well as students move into and out of our district. College admissions staff have also commented to our counselors that ½ credits are unorthodox and are not to the advantage of our students.
- Attached with this summary are two mock up transcripts. One showing ½ credit courses and one showing 1 credit courses. Currently, Albemarle County Public Schools uses the Virginia Transcript provided by Pearson. It is the standard transcript. We will explore working with Pearson to develop a more detailed transcript. Presently, when particular colleges request more detailed information regarding student performance, our counselors provide the student's report card(s). This practice will continue.