

SOMSD plans to pilot “Option 2” for 2017-2018. In essence, Option 2 provides students with the opportunity to earn academic credits for work they are already doing in pursuit of their “personal passions” – such as earning CTE credits for high level participation in a robotics club, or earning PE credits for the time invested in training, conditioning, and playing a CHS varsity sport.

## ***HOW OPTION 2 ALIGNS TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN***

This pilot is aligned with the district’s mission to create “a learner centered environment through multiple pathways” and with Strategy 7, Deliverable 7.4:

### **STRATEGY 7**

**We will reimagine and redesign all aspects of student scheduling, use of facilities and administrative structures to guarantee alignment with mission.**

#### **Deliverable 7.4**

Create and communicate structures and processes that allow for multiple pathways for all learners to access a rigorous and relevant education

#### **Action steps**

**7.4.2** Establish an Option 2 Committee to create a policy for original and recovery credit and to:

**7.4.2.1** Identify content areas that can be served under Option 2

**7.4.2.2** Communicate policy and process to all stakeholders

**7.4.2.3** Identify activities to fulfill Option 2 requirements (e.g. on-line or computer-based courses, independent study, college courses, internships, out-of-school extra-curricular activities, etc.)

**7.4.2.4** Determine number of credits that can be used under Option 2

In Spring 2017, SOMSD formed an Option 2 committee to design and plan for implementation of a pilot for 2017-2018:

- Susan Grierson, Assistant Superintendent for curriculum and Instruction
- Suzanne Turner, Director of Strategic Communications
- Elizabeth Aaron, Principal CHS
- Pam Murray, Director of Guidance
- Charles Ezell, Assistant Principal CHS
- Judy Lo Bianco, Supervisor of Health, PE and Nursing
- Larry Busichio, Director of Athletics and Activities CHS
- Allan Tumolillo, Science Dept., Robotics Advisor
- Elizabeth Savoia, Math Department, Coach

- Sam Maietta, Counseling Dept, Coach
- Bill Mullen, Physical Education Dept, Coach

## **WHAT IS OPTION 2**

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1ii commonly known as “Option Two”

- Permits district boards of education to determine and establish curricular activities or programs aimed at achieving the Core Curriculum Content Standards for promotion and graduation purposes.
- Permits local school districts to design and implement curricular programs that meet the needs of all students.
- Allows students to obtain credit for learning experiences outside of the traditional classroom environment. Some of these experiences may provide real-world connections not available in the school setting. Other learning experiences may go beyond what the traditional high school can provide, allowing students to participate in research, international study, or college-level work.
- May include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:
  - Interdisciplinary or theme based programs,
  - Distance learning,
  - Internships,
  - Community service,
  - Co-curricular or extra- curricular programs,
  - Other structured learning experiences.
- Permits district boards of education to recognize successful completion of an accredited college course that assures achievement of the knowledge and skills delineated in the Core Curriculum Content standards or includes learning that builds on and goes beyond the standards.

## **MULTIPLE PATHWAYS/ALTERNATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards establish a core body of knowledge and skills that all students need in order to become healthy, productive, well-informed, employable citizens of an ever-expanding and changing world. However, all students will not achieve the standards in the same way, at the same pace, or with the same level of success. The New Jersey Department of Education encourages local school districts to permit alternative learning experiences that are stimulating and intellectually challenging, and that enable students to fulfill or exceed the expectations set forth in the Core Curriculum Content Standards. Option Two (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)2) of the high school graduation requirements allows local school districts to design and/or approve educational experiences that serve as an alternative to traditional instruction and provide meaningful learning experiences that support student achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards. Option two allows schools to provide a superior education for all students through the use of multiple and diverse paths.

Option Two permits local school districts to design and implement curricular programs that meet the need of all students. The regulations support student participation in deep and meaningful learning experiences that advance student learning and focus on student interest and abilities. Option two allows students to obtain credit for learning experiences outside of the traditional classroom environment. Some of these experiences may provide real-world connections not available in the school setting. Other learning experiences may go beyond what the traditional high school can provide, allowing students to participate in research, international study, or college-level work.

Option Two may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

- independent study;
- online learning;
- study abroad programs;
- student exchange programs; and
- structured learning experiences, including, but not limited to, work-based programs, internships, apprenticeships, and service-learning experiences.

## **PILOT OF OPTION 2 FOR 2017 -2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

### **For the 2017-2018 school year CHS plans to pilot offering qualified students Option 2 for Fall, Winter and Spring CHS Sports and Robotics Club.**

#### **OPTION 2 for Qualified Students enrolled in Fall, Winter or Spring Sports**

SOMSD plans to offer Option 2 for qualified Juniors and Seniors who participate in a CHS athletic team during 2017-2018. 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who complete the application process and qualify will be exempt from one of their two quarters of Physical Education for the year, schedule permitting.

#### **ESTABLISHING PROTOCOLS AND PROCESS**

The Option 2 Committee is in the process of developing participation criteria, application process, and protocols for monitoring, assessment and grading.

The application and qualifications for eligibility will be available on line at the high school website in August.