

# Credit Adjustment Recommendation

State Board of Education June 2021

The following recommendations to adjust credit requirements were discussed by staff and Advisory Board and approved at the May 2021 MEHS Advisory Board meeting. These adjustments do not change the total number of credits required (24) but do expand the types of classes that meet requirements.

## Credits and Time Summary:

MEHS has moved to a 12 week rotation of classes in order to provide more instructional time to core courses and provide an opportunity for .5 credit options.

### Old System:

In our old system, the semester (18 weeks) block schedule system, courses were 80 minutes for one semester.

Most courses were 1.0 credit for a semester, though some classes were .5 credit for the same semester time.

A semester of time was typically around 100-110 hours of instruction.

### New System:

Our block classes continue to be 80 minutes long but are designed to change every 12 weeks. Each 12 week rotation earns .5 credits and so most core classes have both an A and B class to complete the course, this provides about 140 hours per 1.0 credits of a core subject.

Some courses are designed to be only .5 credits. This was not available in our previous system. This is used for many electives and some core courses have been split into two .5 credit classes (world history is now Early World History .5 and Contemporary World History .5)

## Recommendations

- An expansion of the technology requirement to include Career and Technical classes, not solely computer classes. The 2.0 technology requirement is significant and requires more dedicated time- the equivalent of one year and 12 weeks—to earn the credit. Expanding the courses that fit this requirement provides for student choice, alignment with one's goals, and a value to other industries and post-secondary preparation.
- an adjustment to the PE/Health requirement so that the same amount of time is required in PE and Health as the old system.
- No change in social studies credit requirements, but an allowance to use .5 credit of Alaska History to meet the state requirement, thus opening up a .5 credit for social studies class that the student chooses from a menu. Based on recommendation by the Advisory Board, Government, Alaska History, Economics, and US History must all include Indigenous history and Tribal government information/unit(s) that impacts Alaska Natives.

## Carnegie Unit Understanding

Most high school curriculum is designed to be taught in a Carnegie unit amount of time. For a full credit this is 120 hours, 60 hours for a .5 credit. Neither MEHS nor the State of Alaska requires time-based credits, however it is a general estimate of the time needed for curriculum coverage in a traditionally taught course.

### Old system:

MEHS used 80 minute semester blocks, curriculum had to either be accelerated or reduced in scope. MEHS semester blocks= 101-110 hours/ semester (Biology= 105 hours; Algebra=210 hours)

### New System:

MEHS uses 80 minute trimester blocks, 68-72 hours/trimester for .5 credit or 138-143 hours/2 trimesters for 1.0 credit

Technology Credit:

Recommendation: Keep the credit requirement the same but expand courses that meet requirement to include career and technical courses. The amount of time in this requirement is increased 133%

Old system

|   |            |                           |     |
|---|------------|---------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Computer 1 | Technology of your choice | 2.0 |
|---|------------|---------------------------|-----|

New Recommendation

|   |                                |                                |                                |     |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Computer 1                     | Career/Tech choice requirement | Career/Tech choice requirement | 1.5 |
|   | Career/Tech choice requirement |                                |                                | .5  |

Career and Technology Choice options:

**Current:** Computer 1 (required), Digital Photography, Cutting Edge News, Yearbook, Coding, Engineering

**Additionally Recommended:** Welding, Construction, Tribal Government, Ed Rising (teaching), ETT- Emergency Trauma Technician, EMT- Emergency Medical Technician, Junior Advisory, Senior Futures.

PE & Health

Reduce credit requirement from 2.0 credits to 1.5 credits. This will be the same amount of time in the requirement, require 1 class of health 1 class of PE and 1 class of student choice (health 2 or PE)

|  |                           |    |     |
|--|---------------------------|----|-----|
|  | Health (with imbedded PE) | PE | 2.0 |
|--|---------------------------|----|-----|

Recommended:

|  |          |    |                                      |     |
|--|----------|----|--------------------------------------|-----|
|  | Health 1 | PE | PE or Health 2 class- student choice | 1.5 |
|--|----------|----|--------------------------------------|-----|

Social Studies and Alaska History

Social Studies requirement will remain at 4.0 credits. The switch to trimesters increases the student's time learning social studies by 25%.

Old System:

|    |               |  |     |
|----|---------------|--|-----|
| 9  | World History |  | 1.0 |
| 10 | AK History    |  | 1.0 |
| 11 | US History    |  | 1.0 |
| 12 | Government    |  | 1.0 |

Recommended:

|    |                     |                            |     |
|----|---------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| 9  | Early World History | Contemporary World History | 1.0 |
| 10 | AK History          | Choice Social studies      |     |
| 11 | US History A        | US History B               |     |
| 12 | Government A        | Government B               |     |

Choice Social Studies can be selected from:

Economics                      Native Studies                      Tribal Government(*dual credit*)    Psychology(*dual credit*)

(others may be approved by counselor)