

Credit Recovery Task Force Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2018, 8:00am, MSA Counseling Office

Present:

Emily Graveen, John Gawarecki, Michelle Kurkoski, Joell Pundsack, Noelle Haland (recorder)

1. Credit recovery and MSA's legal obligations
 - a. John has spoken to 3 different MDE contacts, none of whom will go "on record." However, from what he can find, MDE has no requirement for schools to have credit recovery procedures or to offer CR options.
 - b. Per MSA's legal firm: as long as what we do does not conflict with law AND as long as we follow whatever policy we might create, MSA can form whatever policy or procedures we see fit.
 - c. Our group decided to create written procedures instead of a BOD policy to give us more flexibility if needed. These procedures will be published in the Student/Parent Handbook, in the course catalog on the MSA website, and shared with families via the school listserv.
 - d. What about the different kinds of diplomas (an MSA diploma versus a "state diploma")?
 - e. We recommend that the math department create suggestions for tutoring & other supplementary options to help CR students transfer back successfully to MSA's Algebra III (in addition to the CR course).

2. Our recommendations
 - a. We will include definitions of a repeated MSA course, a credit recovery course, and a PSEO course.
 - b. If there is still time to repeat a failed MSA course, the MSA course MUST be repeated.
 - c. Credit recovery (taken in a home district) is only an option if on-time graduation is in jeopardy (usually not until 11th or 12th grade). Algebra I and Algebra II may be taken as CR courses in home districts earlier to stay on track with MSA's math grad requirements.
 - d. All CR courses must be PRE-APPROVED before being taken.
 - e. Up to TWO CR courses may be taken in a student's HS career.
 - f. CR courses will be regarded by MSA as "pass/fail" and the grades will not be incorporated into the MSA GPA (just as transfer credits from other high schools are not incorporated into the MSA GPA, though all courses are listed as having been taken elsewhere on the transcript).
 - g. Joell will ask math department to bulk up their supplemental math information, ie. have a "MSA math prep crash course" with specific websites, tutoring opportunities, and/or additional math packet work for those needing CR summer courses AND for many incoming transfer students.

3. Progression list (students who will or will not progress to next course)

- a. Joell & Emily are working on this. This must be a “working document” that can be changed as needed by teachers as the end of the school year approaches.
4. Discussion about “walking” at graduation ceremony
 - a. We recommend that a student who has only one class yet to pass during the summer AND has a plan to do so may still participate in the graduation ceremony.
 - b. This is not an official published procedure & will only be discussed privately with a student/family if the need arises. We need flexibility for some special circumstances, eg. homebound student due to illness, etc.
 5. Course titles
 - a. This doesn't apply to CR courses, but there can be issues with MSA having to give equivalency grad credit for some PSEO course titles that sound similar to MSA courses but do not necessarily cover what equivalent MSA courses cover (eg. non-lab science course).
 - b. We recommend all departments review their course titles to be sure they accurately reflect current content. This will be discussed at next staff meeting.
 - c. Possible questions: add “inquiry” or “lab” to HS science course titles, add “composition” to some HS English courses, and what about Economics?

