It is the policy of the Concord School Board to allow limited extended learning opportunities for high school students with appropriate supervision and prior approval as a means to meet the diverse instructional needs of students with different talents, interests, and development. The School Board recognizes that extended learning opportunities allow students to acquire knowledge and skills through instruction or study outside of the traditional classroom environment. Extended learning opportunities must be written as a personal educational plan, must meet rigorous high school course standards and competencies, must specify the assessment or evaluation method to be used, must be approved by the school principal or designee prior to implementation and must identify the educator who will supervise the plan. The supervising educator must be appropriately certified by the New Hampshire Department of Education.

The goal of extended learning opportunities is to improve student achievement by providing opportunities outside the traditional school classroom environment that will motivate students to learn. Extended learning opportunities should allow students to acquire knowledge and skill development comparable to the knowledge and skill development in courses offered at the high school.

Credit may be awarded for extended learning opportunities or extended learning opportunities may supplement regular academic courses. The decision to award credit shall be decided by the school principal or designee provided the student has mastered the relevant high school course competencies specified in the student’s plan.

Unless otherwise recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board, students or their parents/guardians shall be responsible for all related expenses including but not limited to tuition and textbooks.

The Board directs the Superintendent to establish regulations and procedures for implementing this policy including, but not limited to:

1. Application and approval process;
2. Appeal process;
3. Student participation in selecting, organizing and carrying out extended learning opportunities;
4. Reasonable limits on the number of approved extended learning opportunities that can be administered each school year-school wide and per student;
5. Assurance of student safety, equal access and compliance with state and federal laws pertaining to high school students; and
6. Notification to students, parents and the public.

Adopted July 7, 2008