



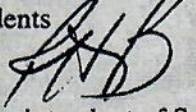
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August 31, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: System Superintendents

FROM: Robert H. Bellamy 
Associate State Superintendent of Schools
Office of Student Learning and Assessment

SUBJECT: Transfer Credit from Private Schools

On August 13, 1998, the State Board of Education adopted a change to Rule 160-5-1-.15 ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT OR GRADES adding the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council (GAPSAC) to the list of approved accrediting agencies. (See enclosure) GAPSAC is an organization which validates the accrediting programs of member agencies meeting identified standards. Accrediting agencies that currently meet the State Board of Education's approved GAPSAC guidelines include the Association of Christian Schools International, the Accrediting Association of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, and the Georgia Association of Christian Schools. The change in the rule provides for the credit of students who transfer from a school accredited by one of the member agencies of GAPSAC to be fully transferable. Transcripts received from GAPSAC member schools should contain a reference to GAPSAC. Complete information regarding an updated list of GAPSAC members can be obtained by writing the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council at Suite 218, 337 South Milledge Avenue, Athens, Georgia 30605 or by calling (706) 549-2190.

This rule change was the result of an extensive study by a State Board of Education task force which carefully analyzed the proposal prior to making a recommendation for its acceptance. As a part of the study, representatives from GAPSAC accrediting agencies, the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, and the Georgia School Superintendents Association were present to study in detail elements of the proposal.

An official replacement copy of the rule will be available on the Department of Education's web site at www.doe.k12.ga.us. However, I am appending the section of the rule that has been changed and the new addition is underlined.

If you have questions regarding this rule, please contact Dr. Kay Wideman, Program Manager for Curriculum, at (404) 657-2461 or by e-mail to kwideman@doe.k12.ga.us.

RHB:ph
Enclosure

cc: Mrs. Linda C. Schrenko
Ms. Lynn Roberts
RESA Directors
Field Service Directors
DOE Distribution List

160-5-1-.15 ACCEPTANCE OF TRANSFER CREDIT AND/OR GRADES.

(1) DEFINITIONS.

(a) Accredited School – A standard Georgia public school as defined in Rule 160-3-2-.01 (Comprehensive Evaluation System) or an elementary, middle or secondary school accredited by or holding provisional status from the Georgia Accrediting Commission and/or one of the accrediting agencies that is a member of the Georgia Private School Accreditation Council and/or one of the following regional accrediting agencies.

1. Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools (MSA)
2. New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
3. North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA)
4. Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges (NASC)
5. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)
6. Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

(b) Validation – the process of verifying credits earned.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Local boards of education shall accept student course credit earned in an accredited school. The school shall have been accredited at the time the credit was earned.

1. A local board of education shall not substitute courses and exempt students from the required secondary minimum core curriculum in the general, college preparatory and vocational education programs unless the student transferred from an accredited secondary school or the courses presented for credit must meet criteria identified in local procedures in (2) (b) 3.

(b) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy for validating credit for courses taken at a nonaccredited elementary or secondary school or home study program. The policy shall include the following.

160-5-1-.15 (Continued)

1. Definitions consistent with this rule.
2. Procedures for placing transfer students in elementary and middle grades at the appropriate level and for granting Carnegie unit credit for high school students. The procedure shall include at least one of the following criteria.
 - (i) Probationary placement based on records of prior school(s) and/or home study programs and satisfactory performance of the student for one or more grading periods.
 - (ii) Tests and acceptable scores. These tests may be standardized or locally developed and should focus on group placement, subject area and/or grade level.
- (3) Procedures for determining whether or not transfer courses meet the required minimum core curriculum.

Authority O.C.G.A. § 20-2-240.

Adopted: August 13, 1998

Effective: September 3, 1998