

Middle School Credit Update and Recommendation to JSD Board

Middle School Credit Committee
November 27, 2018



Background

- December 2017, the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) approved a new middle school credit rule that included:
 - Removing credit requirements for elective courses and recommended students take at least one elective area course in 7th or 8th grade.
 - Adding provisions for awarding credit for potential “course, extracurricular activity, or experience” and an appeals process for potential denials.
- All changes were subject to the discretion of Local Education Authorities (LEAs).
- Jordan School District Board of Education (our LEA) authorized the creation of this advisory committee.

Committee Makeup

5 parents representing each current feeder system

5 teachers representing each impacted elective area
(PE/Health, Arts, CTE, World Languages)

2 counselors

1 principal

1-2 Curriculum representatives

Purpose of this committee

- Serve as an advisory committee to the JSD Board of Education regarding:
 - Required 7th and 8th grade elective classes
 - Substituting credits and appeals process
- We have met 6 times since March of 2018.

Consensus building...



No way!
I'll block this.

I see MAJOR
issues we need
to resolve.

I see MINOR
issues we need
to resolve now.

I see minor
issues we can
resolve later.

I'm fine with
this as it is.

I love this!
I will champion it.

Lack of Consensus

Consensus

Steps taken by this committee so far ...

1. Regularly updated and received feedback from principals, counselors, teachers, and JSD board.
2. Continued to accommodate reasonable requests where feasible.
3. Studied the issue from all perspectives--status quo, adopt new rule, or hybrid.
4. Each elective area has presented their viewpoint.
5. Committee has a recommendation for required classes.
6. Committee has a recommendation for substituting credit.

7th and 8th Grade Elective Requirements

Old

The Arts (1.0 units of credit)

Physical Education (1.0 units of total credit, .5 in 7th and 8th)

Health Education (8th grade) (0.5 units of credit)

College and Career Awareness (7th grade) (1.0 units of credit)

Digital Literacy (0.5 units of credit)

New

At least one course in each of the following in grades 7 or 8:

The Arts-visual, music, dance, theatre, media

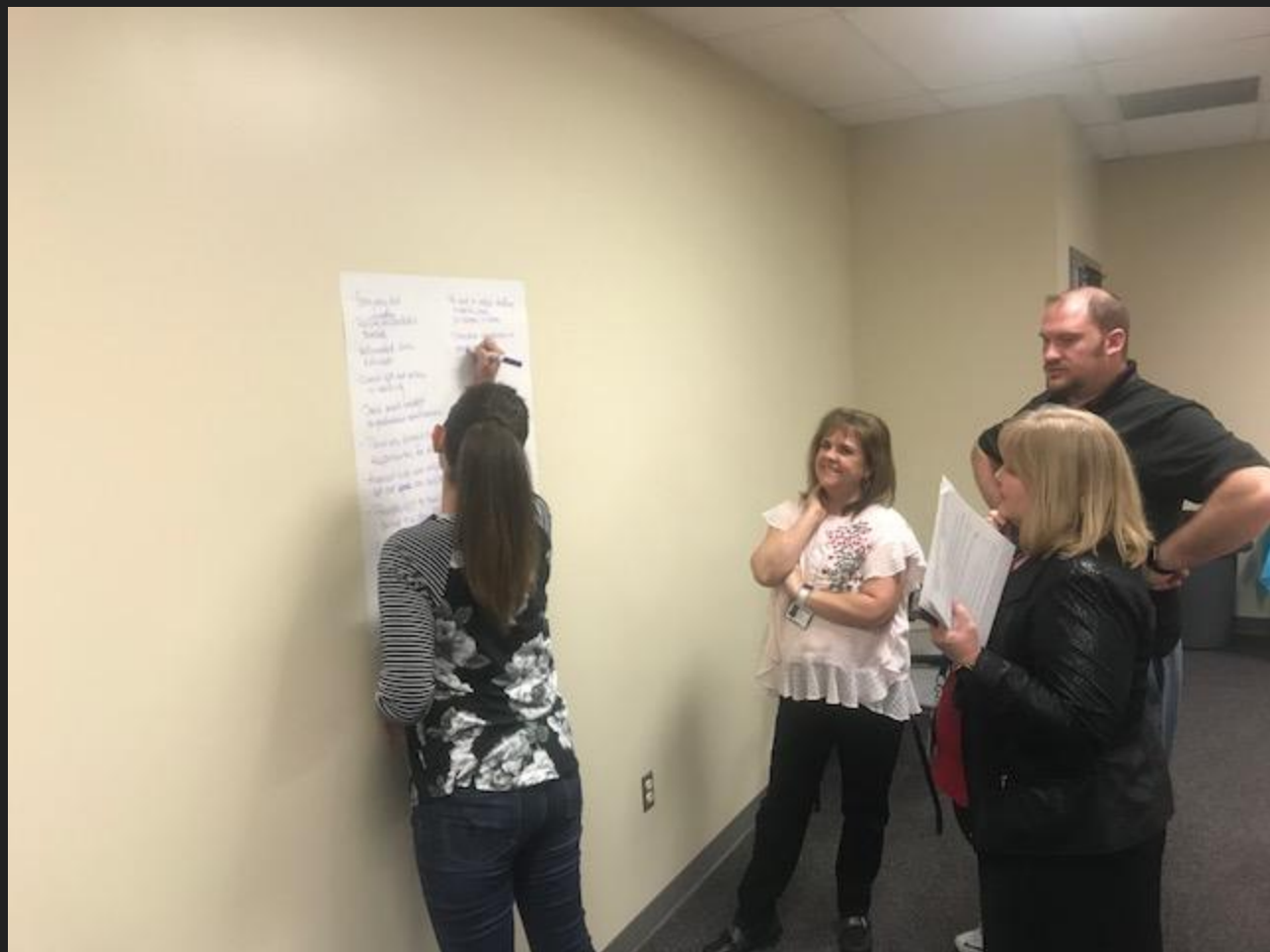
Physical Education

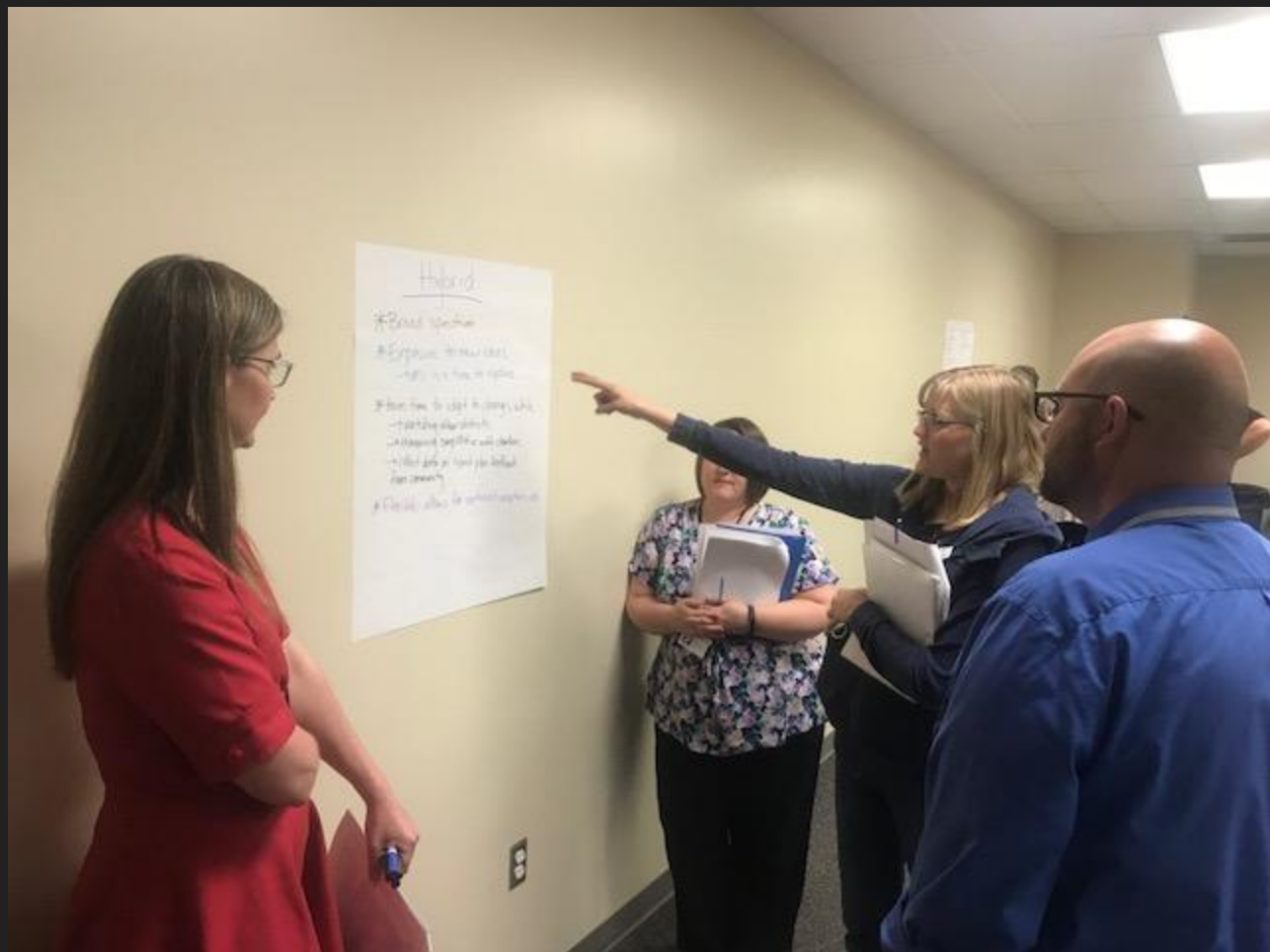
Health Education

College and Career Awareness

Digital Literacy

**There are no longer credit
“unit” requirements**







7th & 8th grade credit recommendations

- PE: Continue to require a semester course in 7th & 8th
 - 8th grade-give more options within approved courses (team sports, volleyball, yoga, etc.)
- College & Career Awareness: Continue in 7th
- Digital Literacy: Continue in 7th or 8th
- Arts: Continue to require in 7th or 8th
 - 1 year as semester classes (art, ceramics, painting) or full year (choir, orchestra in either 7th or 8th
- Health: Continue in 8th

Rationale for recommendations

- Staffing consistency, recruiting and retaining good teachers was a high priority.
- Each committee member felt all areas are important to scaffold future learning and build foundations for high school course work.
- Discussions focused on standards and what kids should know and be able to do.
- Emphasize the importance of exposing middle school students to as many learning horizons as possible.
- Implications for “credit” and requirements in 7th and 8th grade.

Recommendations regarding credit substitution

- Schools should continue to do what is in the best interest of students.
- Educate parents on options for opt-outs.
- Counselors and administrators must be trained on options and consistent in their approach.
 - Specific training for all counselors and principals for parent options
 - Address the issue at orientations, etc.-- before staffing is complete.
 - District-wide opt out letter (see example)
 - Audit of registration cards for consistency and accuracy

*For alternative options to these courses,
please see your counselor by --/--/19.



Jordan School District
Special Course Exemption Request

The parents of _____ have determined the appropriate
Student Name
education path for their student does not include _____
Course Name(s)

Parents are requesting this exception because: _____
Please provide reason for request

Parents acknowledge that this plan does not meet Utah general middle school education requirements, (R277-700-5), for 7th/8th grade completion. As many classes build upon one another, the parent is responsible to fill in any gaps in curriculum that may be needed in later courses. For information on the curriculum and standards that will be missed by removing this course (s) from your student's educational plan, please visit www.schools.utah.gov/curr/areasprograms or www.uen.org/core/. Jordan District encourages all parents and students to follow requirements outlined by the State and District but also understands that there are circumstances that may require these exceptions.

Jordan School District also encourages students and parents to consider options to receive course content. Options for replacing the required course(s) include an online class or summer school. Your student's school counselor can give you more information regarding course options.

If the requested exemption is deemed reasonable and is granted, alternative class placements and accommodations will be made based on class availability. My signature below indicates that I am opting my student out of this class contrary to the recommendation of Jordan School District and the State's Middle School Education Requirements.

Parent Signature

Date

Once the completed form is submitted to the (school name) counseling center a committee will consider the request.

Office Use Only

Date Received _____ Request is: Accepted _____ Denied _____

Counselor Signature

Date



Questions?