

## *What are credits?*

Credits are a numerical way to track the courses a student has completed towards a high school diploma. Courses can be worth ½, 1, or 2 credits depending upon the structure of the class. When tracking a student's diploma plan, a counselor should keep track of the type of course as well as the number of total credits to assure compliance with the requirements. Your district's course catalogue would be the place which lists all of the possible offerings for a student and how many credits the course is worth.

Passing the course awards credit. However, students may also be allowed to average two semesters of a course together to earn one full credit.

## *How does a student earn credits?*

TEA allows students to earn credits in multiple ways. It is up to the district to ensure that the credit is a reflection of mastery of the TEKS for the course in which the student is enrolled. Credits may be earned by:

- enrollment in course
- credit by exam
- alternate delivery method (online courses, distance learning, etc.)

## *What is the 90% rule?*

According to Section 25.092 of the Texas Education Code (TEC), "...a student may not be given credit for a class unless the student is in attendance for at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered." Districts are required to create a committee to hear an appeal by students for this loss of credit.

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## KEY QUESTIONS FOR COUNSELOR TO ASK:

1. What ways are students able to earn credit in our district?
2. What are the dates students can take credit by exam? What tests are options in our district?
3. What are the methods for students to recover credits?
4. Do we allow averaging of two semesters to earn a whole credit when one semester is failing? What is the process for this?
5. What is the attendance appeal procedure in our district?