

CREDIT FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Pursuant to Indiana law, a public secondary school may award academic credit to a student who attends religious instruction if the governing body of the Southwestern Consolidated School District of Shelby County adopts a policy that allows the awarding of credit. In accordance with Indiana law, the Board adopts the following policy:

1. Classes in religious instruction are evaluated on the basis of purely secular criteria in substantially the same manner as similar classes taken by a student at a nonpublic secondary school who transfers to a public secondary school are evaluated to determine whether the student receives transfer credit for the classes. Secular criteria may include the following in addition to other established secular criteria:
 - A. The number of hours of classroom instructional time.
 - B. A review of the course syllabus that reflects the course requirements and materials.
 - C. Methods of assessment used in the course.
 - D. Whether the course is taught by a licensed teacher.
2. The decision of whether to award academic credit shall be neutral as to, and not involve any test for, religious content or denominational affiliation.
3. A student who attends religious instruction under this policy shall first seek to use a time period during a student instructional day (as defined in IC 20-30-2-2) that is not devoted to student instructional time to attend religious instruction. If a student is not able to attend religious instruction at a time other than during student instructional time, the student may only be released to attend religious instruction for an amount of up to 120 minutes per week. The permission is valid only for the year in which it is granted.

A student may be awarded a total of no more than two (2) elective academic credits under this policy.

I.C. 20-33-2-19

Southwestern Consolidated School District of Shelby County

Adopted: [date]

Revised: [date]