

**Public Comment on Summer Credits (Proposed Change to 24:43:11)
November 13, 2015**

Exhibit 1

Date Submitted: Wednesday, November 11, 2015

Name: Colleen Murley, Education Administrator, Aberdeen

Comment: I am concerned about the acceptance of credit for summer courses taken from an accredited school system. By whom do the school systems need to be accredited? Many online systems claim to be accredited, but have not been accredited by a reputable source.

Exhibit 2

Date Submitted: Friday, November 13, 2015

Name: Sheri Hardman, Education Administrator, Elk Point-Jefferson

Comment: Article 24:43 (summer credits) - The decision to accept summer credits should be left up to the school districts. Currently many school districts work with students to take credits that will give them credit in high school as well as at the college level. This change would take that ability away from schools and they would just have to accept any credit that a student brought in whether it coincided with the requirements of a program or not.

Exhibit 3

Date Submitted: Friday, November 13, 2015

Name: Becky Guffin, Education Administrator, Aberdeen

Comment: I believe the language for requiring schools to accept summer credits from an accredited school system should be clarified by stating that the agency granting the credit needs to be approved by the South Dakota Department of Education. It has always been our practice to accept credits from virtual schools that have been approved by the DOE and/or other SD schools. However, we have been asked to approve credits from other on-line sources that claim to be accredited when, in fact, they are not nor do they meet the requirements for the state of South Dakota. There are sites available that simply allow students to pay for credits which produces an official transcript when no actual work has been completed. We need language that does not allow this to happen. Thank you for your consideration.

Exhibit 4

Date Submitted: Friday, November 13, 2015

Name: Don Hotchkiss, Education Administrator, Freeman

Comment: Another bad idea. No local control of this coursework. We would just have to swallow whatever comes across the desk top. Many unanswered questions relative to this change in FORCING schools to accept credits from who knows where. Absolutely no.

Exhibit 5

Date Submitted: Friday, November 13, 2015

Name: Steve Morford, Education Administrator, Spearfish

Comment: Comment regarding 24:43:11:17 Summer school Credits. As a practicing high school principal for over 23 years, I ask that you proceed with this very thoughtfully and carefully. The curriculum of any school must remain each individual school's most important focus. Acceptance of credit for summer courses taken from an accredited school system has the possibility of lessening that standard. How will an accredited school system be defined and documented? We must make sure "accredited" is fully defined. Also, how do we give "notice of any decision that the credits do not meet graduation requirements" if we don't know prior to the class being taken by the student? What will be the documentation? What if Principals and /or Counselors are not available during the time of the request? Most of each do not work every day all summer long. Our counselors have already shouldered quite the burden with the dual enrollment program. Will deadlines be put into place? While this may be seen as "encouraging" innovation outside of the traditional school calendar in preparing students for college and careers, this may actually work in just the opposite manner by not assuring us the rigor of a particular class. This needs to stay a local decision. I see no purpose for this rule as each school should be able to adopt local policy governing curriculum. Thanks Steve Morford - Principal Spearfish High School