Substitute Course Process

The Alabama High School Graduation requirements provide the opportunity for students to pursue multiple pathways to earn a diploma. Students will have options to pursue areas of interest through expansion of elective credits. Flexibility in course substitutions and course equivalents allows for personalized education plans for all students. Though there is increased flexibility, there continues to be high expectations for Alabama's students. The ninth graders of 2013-2014 are required to follow the new graduation requirements. But, since the AHSGE was phased out in November, 2013, these options are now available to all students.

Each high school student is required to have a four-year plan. It is critical that the plan reflects the student's aspirations for life after high school. Careful consideration should be given to the selection of electives, substitute courses, and equivalent courses to ensure that a student is prepared for postsecondary, four-year college, and work. Administrators and counselors should continue to review NCAA requirements for prospective student athletes before approving their electives, substitute courses, or equivalent courses.

For clarification purposes, the definitions below will apply to courses identified as:

- Equivalent – the course includes at least a 90% match in standards
- Substitute – the course is approved as an appropriate replacement, but is not equivalent as defined above

The ALSDE will continue to expand equivalent and substitute course offerings. If an LEA would like to have a course considered as a substitute or equivalent, please see the process for approval below:

- Locally developed CTE courses must be submitted to the CTE Section.
- Locally developed core courses (Mathematics, English, Science, and Social Studies) must be submitted to the Instructional Services Section.
- Once submitted to either section, a cross-sectional team will review courses for alignment to standards and approval for equivalent or substitute credit.