

300 INSTRUCTION

340 Educational Programs

345 Academic Achievement

345.7 Graduation Requirements

345.71 Science Graduation Requirements and Placement

Every student must earn a minimum of one credit in Earth and Space Science 9 and one credit in Biology.

1. Sequence and Placement.

All 9th graders will be placed in Earth and Space Science 9 unless they are able to test out of the class by attaining a 75% on the final exam plus demonstrating proficiency on the items the student was not proficient on the assessment. The teacher and principal will determine this proficiency level based on the student's assessment. Ninth graders may also elect to take Biology or Chemistry, but their placement in those courses will be made in accordance with the criteria enumerated in section 345.61 (2 and 3).

2. Placement of 9th Grade Students in Biology

Students who take biology in the 9th grade shall meet all of the following criteria:

- A. A score of "proficient" or "advanced" in science on the 8th Grade Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination.
- B. A minimum grade of B in all four quarters of 8th Grade Science.
- C. Recommendation of the 8th grade science teacher, to be based on evidence of the following characteristics:

- High motivation
- Strong organizational and study skills
- Critical and creative thinking skills
- Independence and initiative; self-starter
- Ability to work cooperatively in a group
- Demonstrated problem-solving ability
- Open to new ideas and the ideas of others
- Reading ability at or above grade level
- Advanced written and oral communication skills
- Commitment to long- and short-term task completion
- An indication that his or her future educational and career goals would be consistent with an accelerated science curriculum
- A presumption that the student will complete four credits of science

3. Placement of 9th Grade Students in Chemistry

Students who take Chemistry in the 9th grade shall meet all of the following criteria:

- A. A score of “advanced” in both Math and Science on the 8th Grade Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination.
- B. A minimum grade of B in all four quarters of either Algebra or Geometry in 8th Grade.
- C. A minimum average of 90% in all four quarters of 8th Grade Science.
- D. A recommendation from the student’s Math and Science teachers, using the criteria stated in section 2.C.of this policy.

4. Exceptions

Any 9th grader who wishes to take either Biology or Chemistry, but who does not meet the criteria outlined in this policy may submit their request to their 8th grade science teacher. 8th and 9th grade Science teachers, in consultation with the counselor, will consider the request. Their collective judgment will determine the most appropriate placement.

REF: State Statute 118.33
State Statute 121.02(1)(p)
State Administrative Code PI 18

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