

Neptune High School

Option II Programming

Guidebook

Updated as of August 28, 2024



Philosophy

The Neptune High School Option II program affords students the opportunity to earn credit through non-traditional means. Students are encouraged to participate in district approved programs that take students outside of a traditional classroom. This allows students to pursue academic interests that require more hands-on experiences, which one may not find in a traditional classroom setting.

Adapted from the N.J. Department of Education's website:

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)Iii, commonly known as "Option II" permits district boards of education to determine and establish curricular activities or programs aimed at achieving the N.J. Student Learning Standards for promotion and graduation purposes. Option II serves as an alternative to traditional high school courses and involves in-depth experiences that may be provided by school district personnel or instructors not employed by the school district. Option II may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following: interdisciplinary or theme based programs, independent study, magnet programs, student exchange programs, distance learning, internships, community service, co-curricular or extracurricular programs, and/or other structured learning experiences. In addition, *N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)Iii(3)* permits district boards of education to recognize successful completion of an accredited college course that assures achievement of the knowledge and skills delineated in the N.J. Student Learning Standards or includes learning that builds on and goes beyond the standards.

The New Jersey Student Learning Standards establish a core body of knowledge and skills that all students need in order to become healthy, productive, well informed employable citizens of an ever-expanding and changing world. However, not all students will achieve the standards in the same way, at the same pace, or with the same level of success. The New Jersey Department of Education encourages local school districts to permit alternative learning experiences that are stimulating and intellectually challenging, that enable students to fulfill or exceed the expectations set forth in the N.J. Student Learning Standards. Option II (*N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)Iii*) of the high school graduation requirements allows local school districts to design and/or approve educational experiences that serve as an alternative to traditional instruction and provide meaningful learning experiences that support student achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards.

Option II allows schools to provide a superior education for all students through the use of multiple and diverse paths. Option II allows local school districts to design and implement curricular programs that meet the needs of all students. The regulations support student participation in deep and meaningful learning experiences that advance student learning and focus on student interest and abilities. Option II allows students to obtain credit for learning experiences outside of the traditional classroom environment. Some of these experiences may provide real-world connections not available in the school setting. Other learning experiences may go beyond what the traditional high school can provide, allowing students to participate in research, international study, or college-level work.

Option II Program at NHS

Purpose and Eligibility

- All students, grades 9 to 12, may participate in a Board approved Option II program.
- Students may participate in an Option II program, and earn credit, any time from July 1 to June 30, surrounding an academic year.
- Students may choose to earn Option II credit in order to:
 - Earn additional credits above and beyond those required for graduation.
 - Use Alternative Physical Education, via Athletics, Cheerleading, NJROTC, or Marching Arts to satisfy their Physical Education requirement for their Freshman(grade 9), Junior(grade 11) or Senior year(grade 12).
 - Meet prerequisite requirements for certain school-time courses.
- Option II credit **may not** be used for:
 - Satisfying basic graduation requirements, except for Alternative Physical Education
 - Early dismissal from school
 - Early graduation
 - Honors or Advanced Placement credit
- Students and their families may be responsible for any and all fees, tuition, and costs associated with their chosen Option II program.
- At the discretion of the Option II Review committee, students may enroll in multiple Option II programs.
- Option II programs will appear on a student's schedule, transcript, and will be listed in the school's grade management system.

Academic Credit and Grades

- Students will receive High School academic credit in a specific content area of the NJ Student Learning Standards, as determined by the approved Option II program.
- Students are responsible for documenting their participation in any Option II program through portfolios and/or a log of hours. The instructor of the program must approve portfolios and logs.
- In the event of an unsuccessful completion of an Option II program the student will receive no academic credit or grade.
- In the event of a student who does not successfully complete Option II Alternative Physical Education, the student will be enrolled into a traditional Physical Education class to meet the state mandated graduation requirement.
- The Option II Review Committee will be responsible for verifying the student's successful completion of an Option II program.

Timeline of Application for Students to Apply for an Option II Program

Timeframe	Activity
March/April	<p>Advertise to the student body regarding available Option II programs. This will include advertising to rising 9th graders. Applications will be available on the district webpage.</p> <p>Students interested in applying for an Experiential Learning for a <i>JumpStart</i> Academy will submit an application to the respective coordinator for approval. Upon coordinator approval, the application will be forwarded to the Option II Review Committee.</p>
April	Student application period opens.
July-September	Notifications are made to students, parents, and the Guidance Office. Guidance will register students in PowerSchool. Students who are enrolled in Alternate Physical Education will not be enrolled in a traditional school time PE course, they will be enrolled in a different school time course of their choice.

Alternate Physical Education

Neptune recognizes that some pupils are engaged in athletic, interscholastic, or other programs of vigorous physical activity, allowing for achievement of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. Such pupils may, pursuant to rules of the State Board of Education, be excused from the required enrollment in a physical education course, while still earning physical education credit. There are three qualifying pathways:

Path A (for 9th, 11th and 12th graders): Participation in one or more NJSIAA-recognized JV and/or Varsity sports or one season of JV/Varsity cheerleading at the high school, OR

Path B (for 9th, 11th and 12th graders): Continuous high-level training, practice, performance, and/or competition in an athletic or physical activity for at least 150 minutes per week with an organization approved by the district.

NJ State Statute 18A: 35-5, 7, and 8 requires 150 minutes of participation in health, safety, and physical education weekly. The student must have the coach or instructor verify that the student was present and active for at least 150 minutes each week. The coach or instructor must sign the weekly log. Logs must be submitted to the Option II PE Verification Coordinator on the first of every month.

Important notes and obligations for all students pursuing Option II:

- Athletics: Seniors who choose this option must participate in a Fall or Winter Sport
- NJROTC: Seniors who choose this option must participate in NJROTC during the fall semester only.
- The alternative program must also provide activities and development equivalent to those provided by the physical education program of this district.
- For outside organization approval by the district (path B) students must provide the name of the organization/club, coaches names, telephone number, and address of the training facility.
- Students who use this option must complete Health via online learning through NHS on their own time.
- Students must not have previously failed Physical Education
- Have an earned overall GPA of at least an 80
- Athletes only: have successfully earned a Junior Varsity or Varsity Letter in the sport for which they wish to use Alternate P.E.
- Students will only earn credit if they have
 - Successfully completed the entire season of the sport, for which they are participating

- Successfully completed Marching Arts, as per the Marching Arts curriculum
- Successfully completed full semester of NJROTC
- Apply through the procedures listed in this handbook

Students will apply using the application found on the district website, the Head Coach of the Sport, or Marching Unit Director, must approve by signing under “Program Instructor Approval.”

The teacher Option II PE Verification Coordinator will meet with all students on a regular basis to verify that:

- Student athletes have successfully qualified for the sport
- Students are actively participating in their chosen activity, and meeting the required number of hours by maintaining a signed log.
- Students are enrolled and completing the online health course, ensuring it is completed by the designated due date.

Logs

The following rules govern time logs for Option II students:

- Documentation and time accumulated for the week begins every Monday and ends on Sunday.
- All students are responsible for a minimum of 150 minutes of activity per week.
- Shortened school weeks will alter the minimum 150 minutes-per-week requirement to 30 minutes per day. For example, during the three-day Thanksgiving week, students are required to accrue at least 90 minutes of physical activity.
- When school is closed for an entire week, students are not responsible for fulfilling their OptionII obligation.
- Absences from school do not lessen the minimum 150-minute per week requirement.

Students who do not complete the required number of hours through participation in their chosen activity will be enrolled in a traditional school time Physical Education course for the upcoming Semester.

JumpStart Academies

All Neptune High School students are eligible to apply to be part of a *JumpStart* academy. This involves students participating in an Experiential Learning for the respective academy. Students are encouraged to take recommended school-time courses, should the schedule allow.

JumpStart Academies, and the associated Experiential Learning experiences, are designed to give students “real world” experiences, focused on a career path. Students will have the opportunity to explore a career path, and are given an opportunity to examine if this path is of interest for further study.

Students must complete a separate application to participate in the Experiential Learning component of a respective *JumpStart* Academy. Applications for Experiential Learning components are available on the district website. After approval from the respective Academy coordinator, students will be notified.

Current *JumpStart* Academies

Communications
Education
Engineering
Environmental Science
Hospitality & Tourism
Law & Criminal Justice
Medical Science
Performing & Visual Arts

Neptune High School
List of Board Approved Option II Programs

*Please refer to this list when choosing to enroll in an Option II program.
This will be updated as new programs are approved by the Board of Education.*

Program Name	Type of Academic Credit	Number of Credits	Duration	NHS Instructor(s) or NHS Sponsor	Notes
Marching Arts	Music	5	July 1 to June 30	HS Advisor	
Marching Arts	Dance	5	July 1 to June 30	HS Advisor	
Alternative Physical Education NJSIAA Athletic Activity OR Marching Arts OR Cheerleading OR NJROTC	Physical Education	3.75	Various, depends on activity	Various, depends on activity	Available only to Freshman, Juniors or Seniors; Must take the 1.25 Health course a corequisite through online learning

JumpStart Academies
Experiential Learning Experiences
 2.5 Credits may be earned for all experiences

Program Name	Duration	NHS Instructor(s)
Experiential Learning for <i>JumpStart</i> Communications	July 1 to June 30	Designated JS Academy Advisor
Experiential Learning for <i>JumpStart</i> Performing & Visual Arts	July 1 to June 30	Designated JS Academy Advisor
Experiential Learning for <i>JumpStart</i> Medical Science	July 1 to June 30	Designated JS Academy Advisor
Experiential Learning for <i>JumpStart</i> Environmental Science	July 1 to June 30	Designated JS Academy Advisor
Experiential Learning for <i>JumpStart</i> Engineering	July 1 to June 30	Designated JS Academy Advisor
Experiential Learning for <i>JumpStart</i> Education	July 1 to June 30	Designated JS Academy Advisor
Experiential Learning for <i>JumpStart</i> Law & Criminal Justice	July 1 to June 30	Designated JS Academy Advisor
Experiential Learning for <i>JumpStart</i> Hospitality & Tourism	July 1 to June 30	Designated JS Academy Advisor

Performing & Visual Arts Option II Activities

2.5 Credits may be earned for the following activities

Program Name	Type of Academic Credit	Duration	NHS Instructor(s)
Art Club	Visual Art	Sept. - June	High School Advisor
Dance Team	Dance	Sept. - June	High School Advisor
Small Group Music Ensembles: Jazz Band	Music	Sept. - June	High School Advisor
Small Group Music Ensembles: Vocal Groups	Music	Sept. - June	High School Advisor
Small Group Music Ensembles: Other Ensembles	Music	Sept. - June	High School Advisor
After School Theatrical Production: Fall	Theater	Half Year	High School Advisor
After School Theatrical Production: Spring	Theater	Half Year	High School Advisor
Yearbook	Media Arts	Sept. - June	High School Advisor