



**North Carolina  
Virtual Public School**



### **Five Questions to Consider When Choosing a Credit Recovery Program for Your Students**

Choosing a credit recovery program for your students is a major decision that involves issues ranging from the financial costs of the program to the level of preparedness a program provides for students. Below are some questions to consider when choosing a credit recovery program and some ideas about how the NCVPS credit recovery model works. This free program is available to all North Carolina public schools.

#### **1. Is the credit recovery program aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, and how much will the school need to modify the material for the students?**

The NCVPS credit recovery courses are completely aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Our courses are written by highly qualified North Carolina teachers who are currently teaching in the face-to-face environment in addition to being trained to teach online. Other programs may require modifications on the part of the school in order to be aligned with the NC Standard Course of Study. Our courses require no modifications from local school districts because we have created a full course, just as a student would receive if the course were repeated in the traditional environment. However, the benefit of taking an online course for credit recovery with NCVPS is that students can show knowledge of content, exempt out of material, and move at their own pace.

#### **2. How do students move through the credit recovery program and how is their learning supported?**

The NCVPS credit recovery model is unique in several ways; first, students can move at their own pace, but they do so with a North Carolina certified teacher to guide them. Our teachers map out the students' paths for each unit depending upon the skills the students have already mastered or still lack as shown through the pre-assessments. Second, the student/teacher relationship is critical; the teacher is available to work one-on-one with the student each week, and the teacher is in constant communication with the student – providing feedback on assignments, encouraging the student, and answering questions. Teacher class size is one teacher for every twenty students. Teachers also provide student updates to the school contact twice a month during the regular semester and weekly during the summer session.

#### **3. Does the credit recovery program meet the individual learning needs of the students?**

Students need engagement, and the NCVPS credit recovery courses provide that engagement. Individual student learning styles are also addressed within each course. Students access the content in multiple ways including reading material, viewing appropriate videos, using interactive tools to learn concepts, practicing the concepts in a variety of ways, and then showing their learning in a variety of ways. Students do more than look at a computer screen and click answers; students are involved in their

own learning and they are responsible for their own learning. Teachers support the students so that they can be successful in this process.

#### **4. Does the credit recovery program prepare students for the next level of instruction?**

NCVPS believes that a credit recovery program should do more than meet an immediate need. While it may be more convenient to give students a few hours in front of a computer screen and that be the end of the recovery process, NCVPS believes that credit recovery programs should ensure that all the goals of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study are being achieved and that students are not only prepared for the EOC if required, but students are prepared to go onto the next level of instruction. There should not be gaps in the student's learning just because the student went through a credit recovery program. Instead, students should be able to excel in a credit recovery program by demonstrating prior learning while learning the material not mastered the first time the course was taken. When students finish a credit recovery program, all stakeholders should have confidence that the material was learned. This does meet the immediate need, but it may require more time and commitment from both the student and the school.

#### **5. What happens if students do not master the material the first time – what happens next?**

With the NCVPS credit recovery program, if students do not master material the first time, a teacher remediates with the students. Students do not repeat the same assignments over and over until mastery is achieved. Teachers give students different assignments by presenting the material in a different way and then students can show mastery of the material once again but not necessarily by doing the same assignment over. Students do not all learn the same way, and we recognize this; our remediation is individualized to the student and directed by a certified teacher.

**What's the bottom line?** Schools need to decide what their long range goals are for their credit recovery students. We hope we can help you meet those goals by providing quality content and instruction that prepares the student for future learning.

**Want more information?** We would love to talk to you! Please contact:

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