



# Option II...

*A World of Possibilities*

## *What is Option II?*

Option II is an **innovative** and **creative** way for students to earn high school **credit** for learning experiences outside of the traditional classroom!

Within the Mission and Strategic Plan of Woodbury Public School District, Option II is a significant component developed to help each child create, implement and be accountable for his or her own meaningful personal achievement plan. \*

As part of this spirit of engaging students through multiple learning pathways, Option II was established, by the New Jersey Department of Education, to satisfy high school graduation requirements while meeting and/or exceeding the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards.

## Option II - The Official Definition

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1ii, commonly known as "Option Two" permits district boards of education to determine and establish curricular activities or programs aimed at achieving the Core Curriculum Content Standards for promotion and graduation purposes. Option Two 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 Two 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 extra-curricular programs, and/or other structured learning experiences. In addition, N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1ii(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 Core Curriculum Content Standards or includes learning that builds on and goes beyond the standards.

The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content 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 Core Curriculum Content Standards. Option Two (N.J.A.C. 6A:8-5.1(a)1ii) 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 Two allows schools to provide a superior education for all students through the use of multiple and diverse paths.

Option Two 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 Two 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.

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**Currently Approved Option II Programs/Programmatic Option II  
Available on Course Selection Sheet**

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The programs described below (A-I) have been approved by the Woodbury Board of Education and do not require committee approval. An abbreviated application (available on-line or through the Option II Coordinator) must be completed prior to participation.

**A. School to Career**

Students who elect School to Career will have an opportunity to demonstrate both teamwork and problem-solving skills through a structured learning experience. This could consist of an experiential, supervised educational activity designed to provide students with exposure to the requirements and responsibilities of specific job titles or job groupings, and to assist them in gaining employment skills and making career and educational choices. Examples include, but are not limited to: apprenticeships, cooperative education, school-based experiences, internships/career shadowing and paid employment (seniors only). Structured learning experiences must meet all state and federal child labor laws and regulations.

**B. School/District-Wide Committee**

Students in grades 9-12 who participate on School/District-wide committees with a membership that consists of a broad segment of the school community (teachers, administrators, parents, community members), will be eligible to receive high school credit in Civics. The credit will be viewed as “elective credit” within Social Studies.

**C. Gloucester County’s Prosecutor’s Office – Police Academy**

Four-week summer internship program for students completing their Freshman through Junior year. Student interns will be given the opportunity to learn and understand the criminal justice system through a four week internship program that will expose them to the various levels of law enforcement beginning with a two week instructional camp at the Gloucester County Police Academy. The program will culminate with a mock trial in which student interns will be given the roles of prosecutors, defense attorneys and witnesses.

**D. Basic Military Training**

Students enlisting in the United States Armed Forces and completing Basic Training prior to graduation are eligible for Option II credit. Upon completion of the course, the recruit will be able to demonstrate general knowledge of military organization and culture, mastery of individual and group military skills and first aid, achievement of minimal physical conditioning standards, and application of basic safety and living skills in an outdoor environment.

**E. Music Training – Vocal and Instrumental (Pending BOE Approval)**

Students in grades 9-12 who participate in Private Voice or Instrument Instruction will be eligible to receive high school credit in Music: Creation and Performance. The credit will be viewed as “elective credit” within in Visual and Performing Arts.

**F. Teachers in Training (Pending Board Approval)**

High School students with a desire to explore careers in Education are provided with opportunities to observe, assist and perform a full spectrum of classroom activities associated with the work of a Professional Educator. While working under the supervision of our own Woodbury teachers, who are highly regarded for their expertise, every “future teacher” will have an experience consisting of time in a real classroom, working with a real teacher, and developing relationships with real students.

**G. Service Learning (Pending Board Approval)**

The purpose of Service Learning is to acquaint high school students with the need to become participating agents of change by providing volunteering efforts to both their school and community. Students can provide service in the community on a voluntary basis to (pre-approved) public and nonprofit agencies, civic, charitable and governmental organizations and opportunities within our school district.

**H. Junior High School/Pre-High School Program**

Pre-high school students enrolled in high school level courses can elect to receive credit toward graduation and toward the fulfillment of the graduation requirement in that specific area. The Woodbury Board of Education has approved the following courses for Option II credit:

1. Integrated Algebra I
2. Spanish I (8)
3. Chinese I (8)

**I. “O” Period Course Offerings**

Students can elect to enroll in courses offered through Gloucester County College prior to the start of the official school day on the Woodbury High School campus. College credit and high school credit will be awarded. Courses will rotate according to the following schedule:

2009-2010	Introduction to Sociology	(semester 1)
	Sociology II	(semester 2)
2010-2011	Introduction to Psychology	(semester 1)
	Adolescent Psychology	(semester 2)

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**Individual Option II Experiences to Consider  
Approval Pending Individual Committee Review**

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The programs described below (A-G) are examples of Option II experiences that could be approved by the Option II Committee for credit. Interested students must complete the “Individual Option II Program Application“ and be approved prior to participation.

**A. Independent Study (Pending Option II Committee Approval)**

Learning is a highly individualized process, since different people learn a variety of things in different ways. The Independent Study Program provides opportunities for students to make decisions for the direction of their learning. The program a student chooses may be pursued in a variety of academic areas. Working with a faculty advisor, the student prepares a proposal, which sets goals for the study. Periodic progress reports and other developmental measurements are completed by the student and reviewed by the faculty advisor and the Option II Coordinator.

The Option II Committee, consisting of a School Counselor, Director of Pupil Services, Curriculum Supervisor, Department Chair and Option II Coordinator, will review all independent study programs and coordinate the efforts of the students and the resources of the district and community.

**B. On-Line Courses (Pending Option II Committee Approval)**

High School credit will be awarded for courses taken via the Internet under the following conditions:

- All courses must be approved prior to registration by the Option II Committee.
- The institution must be accredited.
- The learning must be guided and must have an evaluative component (tests and/or projects)
- To obtain credit for any course the student must submit a transcript or report card summary from the Internet institution.
- The student will complete a district assessment upon completion of the course.
- The course title and level will be posted on the high school transcript with a grade based on the assessment outcome and high school credit will be issued.

**C. Dual Enrollment Program (Pending Option II Committee Approval)**

Students enrolled in high school may apply to be dual enrolled at a local institution of higher learning, such as a community college or university. These students may take classes at either institution for credit toward their high school diploma, as well as for college credit. Dual enrollment in secondary school is advantageous to students because it allows them to get a head start on their college careers. Furthermore, it may ease the transition from high school to college. Approval for credit within a Dual Enrollment Program follows the same application criteria as the above listed On-Line Courses.

**D. Distance Learning (Pending Option II Committee Approval)**

Distance learning is an integrated system of voice, video, and data capable of delivering quality curriculum and instruction to students. Distance learning brings the world to the classroom by offering access to people, places, and ideas ~ regardless of geographic constraints. Distance learning has the potential for bringing high quality curricula to all students. It creates opportunities for cross-cultural interaction, linking schools to each other and to the outside world. Distance Learning is a unique opportunity that allows students access to services when they need them, where they need them, and in a manner appropriate to their ages and learning styles.

**E. Short Term / Long Term Student Exchange Program (Pending Option II Committee Approval)**

There are countless of Exchange Student Programs that offer young people an opportunity to study a world culture by choosing to live in a foreign country to learn a language and a specific way of life. Students are integrated into the every day life with a host family: living as a native and immersing themselves in the local community and surroundings. Upon returning to the United States, students are expected to incorporate their knowledge and experience into their daily lives.

**F. Extra-Curricular Programs (Pending Option II Committee Approval)**

Students can explore alternative methods within the community, at post secondary schools, and/or online to demonstrate proficiency in meeting the New Jersey Core Content Standards in specific areas. Students will need to correlate the outside learning to the established standards in the given area and gain approval prior to starting the experience. Standards can be found on the New Jersey Department of Education's website at the following location:  
<http://www.state.nj.us/education/aps/cccs/>.

**G. Other Experiences (Pending Option II Committee Approval)**

The Board of Education recognizes that students are involved in learning experiences beyond those which have already been identified in Option II. Students are encouraged to explore additional experiences with the Option II Coordinator to further "personalize" their education at WHS.

WOODBURY PUBLIC SCHOOL

## INDIVIDUAL OPTION II EXPERIENCES PROGRAM APPLICATION

1. Name of Student:

Grade:

Today's Date:

Program Name:

2. Description of Program/Course:  
(Course syllabus or detailed description must accompany this application)

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3. Instructional Objectives of the Program/Course:

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4. Length of Program/Course: Total Weeks: Total Hours:

5. Proposed Content Area to receive elective credit:

Proposed Woodbury Public Schools course to be replaced:

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6. Total number of high school credits desired:

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7. The following CCCS will be satisfied through this program:  
CCCS NJ Dept. of Ed:

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8. Please state reason for request:

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9. Will the student be participating in this program during school hours?  
If yes, please attach a schedule of dates and times when the program will take place.

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10. Teacher/Professor/Facilitator:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Will the student be earning any money as a result of this program?  
If yes, please explain:

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\_\_\_\_\_

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12. Attach or describe the methods of assessment that will be used to demonstrate instructional objectives have been met. If credit is to be granted, the Woodbury Public Schools must be provided with proof that the applicant has achieved the objectives that correspond to the CCCS.

Describe how a formal submission of grades will occur:

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13. Please note the following:

- All costs including transportation and tuition are the responsibility of the student and their parents(s)/guardian.
- Woodbury Board of Education/staff reserves the right to visit, monitor and/or contact the appropriate people involved in this program to insure credibility.
- Evidence that the program is safe and in compliance with any child safety and/or labor laws is the ultimate responsibility of the parent/guardian.
- Parents/guardians/students will hold the district harmless for any liability issues that may arise as a result of this Option II program.

I hereby acknowledge that all information contained in this application is factual. I also acknowledge that I have read and understand all the information contained in the Option II Guidelines.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent /Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Received by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Option II Coordinator)

**Date Accepted:** \_\_\_\_\_

WOODBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**OPTION II - Individual Documentation**

**School Year:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby acknowledge that I have read the outline for specific program of interest in the Option II Guidelines. I also acknowledge that I have read and understand all the information contained in the Option II Guidelines (Regulation #5460).

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Received by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Option II Coordinator)

**Date Accepted:** \_\_\_\_\_

