

What is Credit by Demonstrated Mastery?

Some students are writing wizards; others excel at math. Starting in the 2014-15 school year, GCS students will have the chance to receive credit for some courses **without completing classroom instruction**.

It's all part of our focus on personalizing learning, and away from requiring all students to sit in a classroom to prove they understand the concepts. Instead, students who can show they have mastered the standards will receive credit for that knowledge and can move on to the next level.

This isn't for students who are "good at" some subjects. It's for students who can show they have a deep understanding of the content without classroom experience. Students who accomplish that will receive a pass/fail grade and credit.

Who is Eligible for CDM?

GCS high school students may apply for CDM for high school course credit. Middle school students may apply for high school-level courses taught in middle school.

How Do I Demonstrate Mastery?

Students demonstrate mastery through a two-part assessment process.

Phase I: A standard exam, which shall be the EOC where applicable or a final exam developed locally.

Phase II: An artifact that requires the student to apply knowledge and skills relevant to the content standards. Performance tasks may be required.

Students must demonstrate mastery, not just proficiency, on Phase I to be eligible for Phase II. For example, a student must score a 94% or higher on a local exam.

How Many Courses Could I Pass Through CDM?

Students may earn credit using CDM for as many courses as they wish; however, students may only make one attempt per course. Some courses are exempt from the CDM process.



CDM Timeline:

Since the spring of 2015, students have been able to earn credits through Credit by Demonstrated Mastery.

- **Application:** available at the schools or online. Deadline: End of August (Fall Administration) or mid December (Spring Administration).
- **School Counseling:** Families meet with school counselors to review and plan for the process.
- **Phase I Assessments:** First two weeks of September and February.
- **Phase I results:** mid October and mid March.

Students who achieve a minimum score on Phase I move to Phase II. Students who do not reach the minimum score must register for and complete the course in the traditional way to receive credit.

- **Phase II:** Performance-based task. Administered beginning of November and April.
- **CDM Review Panel:** Evaluates Phase I and II to determine whether the student qualifies for final credit.
- **Panel Recommendation:** December and May.

Students who qualify will have the course and credit noted on their transcript. Students who do not qualify may appeal the panel decision.