

Credit Flexibility: Partnerships

The credit flexibility policy facilitates opportunities for students, parents, and educators to tap into the professional expertise of their community to explore where and how learning can happen.

The importance of school-community partnerships in developing expanded learning opportunities was highlighted in the final plan adopted by the Ohio State Board of Education. "Credit Flex creates options for educating and building relationships with students and educators about industry opportunities, competencies and trends...and directly adds value to the education system by engaging them in meaningful partnership in support of education, workforce development and community" ([Executive Summary: New Emphasis on Learning](#), p. 4).

The [Granville Studio of Visual Arts \(GSVA\)](#) and the [Granville Exempted Village School District](#) have developed a credit flexibility partnership that allows students to earn high school art credit through participation in an afterschool GSVA arts program.

Partnership Goals

The success of any partnership rests on the convergence of mutual goals. For GSVA and the Granville school district, the goals of their credit flexibility partnership include the following:

- Collaborative program planning
- Increased student creativity
- Increased use of arts programs for multidisciplinary instruction
- Strengthened ties between extended learning opportunities and the traditional school day

Planning Team

To facilitate the work of the partnership in meeting those goals, a joint planning team between GSVA and the school district was established. The team includes school administrators and staff (e.g., curriculum director, high school principal, dean of students, instructors) and GSVA staff.

This planning team works together to do the following:

- Increase joint understanding of district policies and procedures
- Define potential challenges to credit flexibility implementation and problem-solve solutions
- Leverage resources to meet programmatic needs
- Explore new partnership opportunities, both for high school and elementary school students
- Strategize long-term goals
- Educate parents and students about new learning opportunities

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"Credit flexibility allows us to **support schools and facilitate connections** between students' education and their personal interests."

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The [Credit Flexibility Case Study Series](#) includes stories focused on these topics:

- Getting Started
- Staff Coordination
- Assessment
- Instruction
- **Partnerships**