



NSSEO

Building a Promising Future for Students

ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

High School Courses - Adapted

This document is intended to aid administrators in selecting courses appropriate for students.

All policies, procedures and courses described in this document are subject to change without notice.



Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization
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As our educational systems continue to grow and evolve in response to the needs of students and expectations for our students as they graduate from school, it is imperative that as an organization we implement quality practices that provide the educational opportunities, services and supports that best equip our students for the futures. NSSEO has embraced the importance of life-long learning by developing organizational goals and measurable objectives that blend required changes with high standards and expectations established for ourselves, our staff and our students.

We believe that the strong partnerships between our schools/programs, families and communities will continue to enhance opportunities that result in greater student success. While we continue to face significant funding challenges, it is equally important that we continue to embrace a philosophy that unites stakeholders around a common purpose reflected in our mission statement – to build a promising future for our students

The NSSEO special education cooperative is a legal district founded over 43 years ago with a commitment to serve students with disabilities and their families. This year we have again set strong, measurable goals for our organization around the following four areas that also reflect the priority areas of our eight member districts:

- *Student achievement – Increase student growth in academics, social-emotional learning and independence*
- *Continuous improvement – Engage in a systemic process to enhance NSSEO programs and services*
- *Collaborative partnerships – Influencing change at the local, state and federal levels through partnerships to improve student outcomes*
- *Fiscal responsibility – Support organizational goals through a fiscally responsible allocation of resources*

This is a critical time in education to rise to the expectations and challenges by answering the question of why we do what we do convincingly. Carol Ann Tomlinson, a strong educational researcher and presenter has said, “*Excellence in education is when we do everything that we can to make sure they become everything that they can.*” We will continue to strive for excellence at NSSEO, reflective of the important role we all play in assisting all students to become everything that they can possibly be.

Judy Hackett, Ed.D.

Superintendent

OVERARCHING GOAL

Provide visionary leadership that focuses on improved outcomes for students with special needs" recognizes the individual needs of each child and the belief that all children can learn and be contributing members of society.

MISSION

NSSEO seeks to build and strengthen home/school/community partnerships to enable students with special needs to become participating members of society.

VISION

"Building a promising future for students" supports the following Board goals and we incorporate them into our program goals:

- **Student Achievement:** Increase student growth/progress in the areas of academics, social/emotional learning and independence
- **Continuous Improvement:** Engage in a systemic process to enhance programs and services
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Influence change at the local, state, and federal levels through partnerships to improve student outcomes
- **Fiscal Responsibility:** Support organizational goals through a fiscally responsible allocation of resources

WE VALUE

- **Partnerships:** School, family and community focused on continuous improvement
- **Leadership:** Looking beyond what is, to what is possible
- **Collaboration:** Working together to share knowledge
- **Lifelong learning:** Engaged professional learning communities
- **Communication:** Active process

WE BELIEVE

- All students can learn with appropriately defined learning objectives
- Curricula and instructional strategies reflective of best practice research that meet the diversity of individual student needs
- Learning is a shared responsibility among students, families, staff and community
- A positive, safe learning environment encourages and supports student and staff wellness, safety, diversity, creativity, and collaboration
- Clearly defined goals shared by all stakeholders.

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COURSE CATALOG

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERATURE PROGRAM



ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERATURE PROGRAMS
High School - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
01050A	01066A000	<p><u>Reading Skills / Strategic Reading</u></p> <p>This course is offered to students who need intensive work in basic reading skills. Students will work to increase targeted skills in the areas of guided reading, word study, writing, and self-selected reading. Instruction is individualized to meet each student's needs.</p>	9 - 12
01060A	01067A000	<p><u>Modified Reading / Assisted Reading</u></p> <p>Assisted Reading courses offer students the opportunity to focus and build on their reading skills. Students will work to increase literacy skills in the areas of listening, communicating (both verbally and non-verbally), reading, and writing. Instruction is individualized to meet each student's needs.</p>	9 - 12
01070A	01068A000	<p><u>Adapted Reading / Corrective Reading</u></p> <p>Corrective Reading courses are taught to students who need intensive work in reading and writing. Activities are chosen to increase or improve students' who possess basic literacy skills and need further instruction in reading comprehension, reading technique, and general literacy skills. Students are given additional instruction in the area of individual need.</p>	9 - 12
01080A	01999A000	<p><u>Basic English / English Language and Literature—Other</u></p> <p>This course is designed to improve basic language skills. Communication skills are taught in this course with the emphasis on reading and writing. High interest materials are utilized at increasing levels of difficulty. Students are given instruction in the areas of individual needs. Practical reading skills are emphasized.</p>	9 - 12

MATHEMATICS PROGRAM

MATHEMATICS PROGRAMS
High School - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
02010A	02002A000	<p><u>Basic Math / General Math</u></p> <p>Basic math expands the students' foundational math skills. In this course students will cover such topics as ordering numbers, patterns and units, making predictions, identifying geometric shapes and figures, and basic addition and subtraction. Instruction is individualized to meet each student's needs.</p>	9 - 12
02030A	02061A000	<p><u>Integrated Math / Integrated Math—Multi-Year Equivalent</u></p> <p>Integrated Math courses emphasize the teaching of mathematics as problem solving, communication, and reasoning. This course is designed for students who need intensive work in mathematics. It includes pre-readiness math skills (attending and cause and effect) and fundamental math skills (numbers and operations, measurement, and estimation. An emphasis will be placed on the connections among mathematical topics and real-world applications.</p>	9 - 12
02050A	02151A000	<p><u>General Math / General Applied Math</u></p> <p>General Applied Math courses reinforce general math skills, extend these skills to include some pre-algebra and algebra topics, and use these skills in a variety of practical, consumer, business, and occupational applications. Course topics typically include rational numbers, measurement, basic statistics, ratio and proportion, basic geometry, formulas, and simple equations.</p>	9 - 12
02060A	02152A000	<p><u>Vocational Math / Community Math</u></p> <p>This course reinforces general math skills and extends these skills primarily into the occupational and community settings. This course is designed to increase the student's independence in the community. Course topics typically include number recognition, writing numbers, calculator skills, ordinal counting, money, time, and solving simple equations.</p>	9 - 12
02070A	02157A000	<p><u>Consumer Math / Consumer Math</u></p> <p>Consumer Math courses reinforce general math skills and applies these skills to consumer problems and situations. Applications typically include budgeting, banking services, buying and selling products and services, and managing personal income.</p>	9 - 12

LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM

**LIFE AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES PROGRAMS
High School - Adapted**

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
03010A	03201A000	<p><u>General Science / Integrated Science</u> Integrated Science courses draw upon the principles of several scientific specialties—earth science, physical science, biology, and physics—and organize the material around thematic units. Common themes covered in this course include systems, models, energy, patterns and change.</p>	9 - 12
03020A	03202A000	<p><u>Basic Science / Unified Science</u> Unified Science courses combine more than one branch of science into a cohesive study or may integrate science with another discipline. This course places an emphasis on inquiry based learning. General scientific concepts are explored, as are the principles underlying the scientific method and experimentation techniques.</p>	9 - 12
03060A	03203A000	<p><u>Applied Science / Applied Biology/Chemistry</u> Applied science is a topics-based science course exploring the connections between real world issues and classroom science. The emphasis will be on applying the scientific method to understand the role of science in our everyday lives.</p>	9 - 12
03070A	03999A000	<p><u>Basic Life and Physical Science / Life and Physical Sciences—Other</u> This course will focus on inquiry based learning and hands-on experiences. Students will develop skills in measuring, solving problems, following safety procedures and using the scientific method. Topics may include the study of living organisms such as plants, animals and human beings.</p>	9 - 12

SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY PROGRAM



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SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HISTORY PROGRAMS
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NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
04020A	04109A000	<p><u>Basic U. S. History / Particular Topics in U.S. History</u></p> <p>This course examines a particular topic in U.S. History, such as particular time periods in the history of the United States, or they may focus on the history of particular U.S. regions rather than provide an overview of the subject. Students will gain a basic understanding of the diversity of people in the U.S.A. and people who help make change, and an understanding of historical events that led to the birth of our country and government.</p>	9 - 12
04040A	04002A000	<p><u>Basic Geography / Particular Topics in Geography</u></p> <p>Particular Topics in Geography, such as physical or cultural geography, or the geography of a particular area or region, will be covered in this course. Students will focus on learning about basic industry and agriculture located in the U.S., as well as gaining a basic understanding of world locations and significant events or sites.</p>	9 - 12
04050A	04152A000	<p><u>Basic U. S. Government / Particular Topics in U.S. Government</u></p> <p>This course examines particular topics pertaining to U.S. government and political institutions rather than providing a general overview of the subject. Students will concentrate on learning about basic rights and responsibilities of citizens and the basic rights of the Constitution with the implications for daily lives.</p>	9 - 12

FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM



FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS
High School - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
05010A	05201A000	<u>Fine Arts / Integrated Fine Arts</u> Integrated Fine Arts courses explore self-expression across the fine arts. This course is designed to teach students in the areas of art, music, dance and drama through participation in realistic, hands-on experiences. Skills will be met through appropriate activities designed for the student's level of capability.	9 - 12

PHYSICAL, HEALTH, AND SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM



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PHYSICAL / HEALTH / SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAMS
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NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
08020A	08007A000	<p><u>Adapted P. E. / Adapted Physical Education</u> These courses provide physical education activities (sports, fitness, and conditioning) adapted for students with special needs.</p>	9 - 12
08030A	08009A000	<p><u>Weight Training / Weight Training</u> Weight Training courses help students develop knowledge and skills with free weights and universal stations while emphasizing safety and proper body positioning; they may include other components such as anatomy and conditioning.</p>	9 - 12
08040A	08016A000	<p><u>Adventure P. E. / Lifetime Fitness Education</u> These courses emphasize acquiring knowledge and skills regarding lifetime physical fitness; content may include related topics such as nutrition, stress management, and consumer issues. Students may develop and implement a personal fitness plan.</p>	9 - 12
08050A	08051A000	<p><u>Health / Health Education</u> Topics covered within Health Education courses may vary widely, but typically include personal health and consumer health issues. The courses may also include brief studies of environmental health, personal development, and/or community resources.</p>	9 - 12

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES PROGRAM



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COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCES PROGRAMS
High School - Adapted

NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
10020A	10003A000	<p><u>Basic Computers / Computer and Information Technology</u> Computer and Information Technology courses teach students to operate and use computer and information technology, emphasizing their role as tools to communicate more effectively, support the curriculum, conduct research more efficiently, and increase productivity. Instruction may include the use of adapted equipment such as switches and adapted keyboards. Course content will include appropriate etiquette involved with computer technology and use.</p>	9 - 12
10040A	10002A000	<p><u>STEM Library / Computing Systems</u> Computing Systems courses offer a broad exploration of the use of computers in a variety of fields. These courses have a considerable range of content, but typically include the introduction of robotics and control systems, computer-assisted design, computer-aided manufacturing systems, and other computer technologies as they relate to industry applications.</p>	9 - 12

LIFE SKILLS ENRICHMENT PROGRAM



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LIFE SKILLS ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS
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NSSEO Course Number	ISBE Course Code	NSSEO Course Description / ISBE Title	Grade Level
22010A	22004A001	<p><u>Work Experience and Career Exploration</u></p> <p>This course will introduce students to various job opportunities within the school and community setting. This is often the first work experience for the student and is usually in a one-to-one work situation. Students develop such skills as completing job task correctly and remaining on task.</p>	9 - 12
22020A	22151A000	<p><u>Basic Career Skills / Career Exploration</u></p> <p>Career Exploration courses are an introduction to the world of work. This course will focus on job awareness, how the students fit into the work community, appropriate work behavior, following directions, following rules and getting along with others. Students will learn skills that will increase their employability.</p>	9 - 12
22040A	22206A000	<p><u>Functional Life Skills / Life Skills</u></p> <p>Life Skills courses provide students with information about a wide range of subjects to assist them in becoming independent and productive adults. This course will emphasize such topics as developing social skills and relationships, decision making, time management, self care and use of community resources. They may also explore health and safety, clothing care and leisure skills.</p>	9 - 12
22050A	22207A000	<p><u>Self-Development / Self Management</u></p> <p>Self-Management courses introduce students to the skills and strategies helpful in becoming more focused, independent, and productive individuals. This course will emphasize goal setting, decision making, and management of time, energy and stress, and identification of coping strategies.</p>	9 - 12
22060A	22209A000	<p><u>Self-Care / Personal Development</u></p> <p>Personal Development courses emphasize understanding of self, strengthening self-esteem, recognizing and resisting negative peer pressure, and developing coping skills and self awareness skills for dealing with changes. This course may also focus on proper hygiene.</p>	9 - 12
22080A	22251A000	<p><u>Daily Living Skills / Community Living</u></p> <p>Community Living courses place a special emphasis on the student's relationship to the surrounding community. Instruction varies with the students and their needs; however, this course provides the skills necessary for independent functioning within the surrounding environment. Course topics may also include available community resources and how to access them, emergency skills, and independent living strategies.</p>	9 - 12
22090A	22253A000	<p><u>Social Development / Social Development Instruction</u></p> <p>Social Development Instruction courses teach students the social skills needed for independent functioning within the community. Topics may include self-control, self-expression, obeying rules, decision-making, appropriate situational behavior, interacting with others, and maintaining relationships. Students may develop independence, self-confidence, and self-reliance.</p>	9 - 12
22100A	22252A000	<p><u>Communication / Communication Instruction</u></p> <p>Communication Instruction courses are individualized according to each students needs. This course focuses on increasing the student's expressive communication skills (both verbal and non-verbal), listening comprehension, turn taking and conversational skills. Role playing activities may be included.</p>	9 - 12

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