

Frequently Asked Questions

1) *Which courses will count toward the Progress Report High School Readiness metrics?*

The new High School Readiness metrics on the middle school Progress Report will award middle schools credit for, among other things, the percentage of all 8th graders who have:

- completed a high school level course culminating in a Regents exam or state Language Proficiency Exam with a grade of “C” or higher and scored 65+ on the Regents or Language Proficiency Exam associated with that course; **or**
- completed a course in the middle school which has been approved for high school credit by the Superintendent or his/her designee(s) with a grade of “C” or higher and passed a locally developed examination approved by the principal.

Additional information on middle school accelerated courses is available [here](#). **Schools should not nominate courses for High School Preparatory Course Certification (HSPCC) that are already included in the High School Readiness metrics.**

2) *What are some examples of courses for which middle schools can earn credit on the Progress Report High School Readiness metrics?*

Middle schools can earn credit on the Progress Report High School Readiness metrics for, among other things, the percentage of all 8th graders who have completed a middle school accelerated course (*i.e.*, a high school level course culminating in a Regents exam or state Language Proficiency Exam or an approved high school credit-bearing course). Examples of middle school accelerated courses include: U.S. History, Global History, Integrated Algebra, Geometry Year 1, Living Environment, Earth Science, English Composition, French year 1, Latin year 1, Spanish year 1, and Italian year 1.

3) *Who should apply for HSPCC?*

Any middle school that offers academically rigorous courses that include explicit development of students’ academic and personal behaviors that will prepare them to be successful in high school and beyond. The HSPCC process provides middle schools with the opportunity to earn points on the Progress Report High School Readiness metrics. This process especially seeks to identify rigorous high school preparatory courses at schools that have chosen not to, or are unable to, offer courses already included in the High School Readiness metrics.

4) *What are the requirements for HSPCC eligibility?*

- The course must have **high standards** as defined by the New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS) and demonstrate results—it should contribute to a greater likelihood of success in early high school for students passing the course.

- The course **must not be a middle school accelerated course** (*i.e.*, a high school level course culminating in a Regents exam or state Language Proficiency Exam or an approved high school credit-bearing course), as these courses are already included in the High School Readiness metrics.
- The course must be established and have been taken by **at least 25 students who enrolled in a NYC DOE high school by October 31, 2010 and remained enrolled in high school through the end of their 9th grade year.**
- The course must be **taught in the 2011-2012 school year**, and there should be **plans to continue** offering the course in the future.
- The course must serve predominately **eighth graders.**
- There must be a range of **student work and teacher work (assignments and assessments) as well as a comprehensive curriculum and/or scope and sequence document on file** from the course.
- If multiple sections of the course are offered, all sections should be **horizontally aligned** with similar expectations, assignments, and grading policies.

5) *How do I determine which course(s) to nominate for HSPCC?*

Schools should work with network teams to determine which rigorous middle school course(s) are most appropriate to nominate for HSPCC.

6) *How will nominated courses be evaluated?*

The HSPCC evaluation has two parts:

i. Quantitative evaluation

The **quantitative evaluation** employs a statistical analysis to evaluate the relationship between passing the nominated course and success in early high school, controlling for student characteristics to ensure fair comparisons.

ii. Qualitative evaluation

The **qualitative evaluation** looks at the quality and rigor of a course as measured by the CCLS and how a course develops the academic and personal behaviors necessary for success in high school. The evaluation is based on the information and instructional artifacts provided in Part II of the application. Course observations will further inform the review process.

Courses that pass both the quantitative and qualitative evaluations will be granted certification.

7) *What are evaluators looking for in the student and teacher work submissions?*

Evaluators will use the CCLS to examine whether the course design provides students with rigorous opportunities to develop and demonstrate important content and skills with increasing independence. They will also look for evidence that the course supports students in developing the academic and personal behaviors necessary for success in high school. Sample assignments and assessments and graded student work will be reviewed to evaluate what students are asked to

know and be able to do, and how they are expected to demonstrate their understanding and apply their knowledge.

8) Why must a course have been taken by at least 25 students who enrolled in a NYC DOE high school by October 31, 2010 and were not positively discharged by the end of the 2010-2011 school year to be eligible for HSPCC?

As part of the HSPCC process, the DOE will perform a statistical analysis to evaluate the relationship between passing the nominated course and credit accumulation in core subject areas in the 9th grade. To ensure that our analysis is reliable, we need to consider a minimum of 25 students who took the nominated course and were enrolled in a NYC DOE high school throughout the 2010-2011 school year. Schools may nominate a course that has been taken by a total of 25 students in a single year or across multiple school years in or before 2010-2011.

9) How do I nominate a course for HSPCC?

HSPCC applications may be submitted **online**. Please email HSPCertification@schools.nyc.gov if you would like to nominate a course for HSPCC.

10) When will I find out if the course has been certified?

We will notify schools of certification decisions by summer 2012.

11) For how long will courses that have been certified as part of the HSPCC pilot remain certified?

Courses certified through the HSPCC pilot will receive a two-year certification. Schools may be asked to verify in the second year of certification that the offered course is not substantially different from the course submitted for certification. Once the certification expires, a course may be nominated for re-certification using a modified application process. More information on the re-application process will be available in fall 2013.

12) Will the results of the HSPCC process be reported on the Progress Report?

The percentage of students who pass courses that are certified through the HSPCC pilot will be counted on the **2012-2013** Progress Report, in addition to the percentage of students who meet the other criteria on the High School Readiness metrics. The DOE has not yet determined how the results of the pilot will be incorporated into the High School Readiness metrics.

Courses that are not approved as part of the HSPCC pilot will not appear on the Progress Report, nor will any indication of the course's application for HSPCC.

13) Whom do I contact for questions about the HSPCC application process?

For **technical questions** related to the online HSPCC application process, please email HSPCertification@schools.nyc.gov. For questions related to the **content** of the HSPCC application, please contact your Network Performance Point or email HSPCertification@schools.nyc.gov.

14) Whom do I contact to provide general feedback on the Progress Report?

To provide general feedback on the Progress Report, please contact the Progress Report team at PR_Support@schools.nyc.gov.