

May grantees use 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) funds to offer programs or activities for which participants may receive credit toward high school graduation requirements?

Yes. In some circumstances, grantees may be able to use 21st CCLC program funds to offer programs or activities for which participants may receive credit toward high school graduation.

The primary purpose of the 21st CCLC program is to offer students a broad array of services, programs, and activities before and after school that are designed to *reinforce* and *complement* the regular academic program of participating students. In addition, section 4203(a)(9) of the ESEA requires states receiving funds under the 21st CCLC program to use such funds to supplement, and not supplant, other federal, state, and local public funds expended to provide programs and activities authorized under the 21st CCLC program and similar programs. 20 U.S.C. 7173(a)(9). Thus, 21st CCLC funds may not be used to pay for activities or programs that would have been provided from other public funds in the absence of the 21st CCLC program.

A grantee may, however, use 21st CCLC program funds for a before- or after- school program or activity for which participants may receive credit toward high school graduation requirements if: (1) such a program or activity is an expansion of the options for receiving high school credit in a particular area that would not have been provided without the 21st CCLC program, and (2) the program or activity does not replace or reduce the courses and programs normally provided by a local school district or private school (*i.e.*, there is no reduction in the course offerings or costs in that particular academic area).

Note: This answer addresses the use of 21st CCLC funds by grantees for programs or activities that may result in participants' receiving high school credit. It is important to note, however, that it is the local school district or private school (*i.e.*, not the 21st CCLC grantee, if it is a different entity) that decides whether to award credit for the program or activity. It is also important to note that 21st CLCC projects are not required to offer programs or activities for which participants may receive credit.