

Senioritis

posted – 6 March 2019

Real or imaginary, some students suffer from senioritis. They've had it up to here with school and just want to be done. Pressures of adulthood looming may lead to a feeling of overwhelming anxiety. I experienced senioritis. To help relieve the situation, I was able to take just two classes in my senior year. Other than English and Government, all requirements had been met. With an up-and-coming senior in the household, who has met all the requirements, they too were looking forward to a less stressful year. They intended to take just two classes – English and Government.

Fewer courses, in Hampton, are not an option now...though exception are possible. It seems that Hampton has a policy requiring full enrollment in a student's senior year. Eight courses must be selected. They could register in dual enrollment...maybe take an AP course or two...throw-in a few electives and *BAM* full-time. However, most seniors don't go that extra mile. Maybe keeping the kids around seems like a waste of the ever-dwindling Hampton education dollar to have such a policy...or is it?

So why does Hampton have this policy? The state doesn't require it. Does it have to do with funding? When asked, I was told, "I have no idea." "No idea." Not – we want to produce well-rounded students who are prepared for career or college. Hampton is making diploma-seeking students sign-up for unnecessary courses because of an ambiguous "policy". I asked 1 Franklin for a copy of the policy. Maybe it would offer enlightenment.

All students in grades K-12 shall maintain a full day unless otherwise excused. Secondary students may be released to participate in a cooperative work-study program. All other exceptions to a full-day schedule must be approved on an individual basis by the Superintendent/designee.

Hampton School Board policy JEF

So why does Hampton City Schools require seniors to attend full days? I think it does have to do with funding. Otherwise, with their BS mantra of "every child, every day, whatever it takes" wouldn't there be a more meaningful policy for staff to refer to when questioned...instead of "I have no idea".

Hint – for this outdated policy add a little...prepare students to become career or college ready. Just an idea.

Why might it relate to funding? It is in the numbers. There were 2,158 students in 9th grade in the 2009/2010 school year. What would be their senior year – 2012/2013 – there were only 1,447 students (What happened to the other 32.95%?). For funding, there must be a student. The senior must be enrolled in three or more classes to be considered full-time. If you have a district always grumbling about limited funds, combined with vanishing students, full-time status may be necessary to generate the dollars to operate. By 2013, there were 711 fewer students. The per student funding that year was \$9,669. That is a loss of \$6,874,659. If just 10% of the remaining students attended school half-time, that would result in an additional loss of \$1,392,336.

This is why, I think the rational behind the policy is funding...and keeping the delinquents off the streets.

9th Grade	12th Grade	Percentage
2009-2010	2012-2013	
2,158	1,447	67.05%
2010-2011	2013-2014	
2,034	1,325	65.14%
2011-2012	2014-2015	
2,058	1,270	61.71%
2012-2013	2015-2016	
1,983	1,267	63.89%
2013-2014	2016-2017	
1,847	1,222	66.16%
2014-2015	2017-2018	
1,827	1,219	66.72%
2015-2016	2018-2019	
1,877	1,250	66.60%