

Self-Directed Learner Procedure

Eligibility Criteria

As a self-directed learner, a student must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate mastery of content knowledge through grades, assessments, or through a portfolio demonstrating proficiency on the state standards.
2. Demonstrate one year of academic growth as measured by the most recent state or district-approved diagnostic assessment.
3. Demonstrate timeliness in returning assignments, self-motivation, ability to establish goals.
4. Demonstrate age-appropriate learning outcomes.
5. Demonstrate mastery of addition and multiplication for numbers 0-10, as well as related subtraction and division problems, known collectively as 'Math Facts', for students starting in Grade 5, scoring at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher using one of the following math computation assessments:
  - a. Aimsweb Math Computation
  - b. Dibels Math Computation
  - c. Easy CBM Math Computation
6. Demonstrate an informed choice of postsecondary career and educational goals, for students starting in Grade 8, by:
  - Completing and updating his/her student learning plan as defined in I.C. 33-1001(30); and
  - Identifying and writing down his/her own personal life goals that include an explanation of how attending specific classes will lead to the fulfillment of these personal life goals; and
  - Supplementing his/her student learning plan with the following: (1) extended learning opportunities, (2) courses or examinations funded by advanced opportunities, or (3) any other credits or programs permitted by Idaho Code or district policies.
7. Demonstrate continued mastery of content and skills appropriate for current grade level and make one (1) year of academic growth annually.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop a process for a student to document their post-secondary goals for the purposes of this policy. The Superintendent is

directed to determine ways of establishing whether a student has met all of the criteria above. These measures may be based on the following:

1. For secondary students, the most recent report card or progress report indicates at least a B grade in each subject area or a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.
2. For elementary students, the most recent report card or progress report must indicate at least a score of proficient or advanced in each subject area.
3. The most recent state or district-approved diagnostic assessment indicating a score supporting proficient or advanced in each tested subject area.
4. A portfolio demonstrating proficiency on the state standards.
5. Teacher(s) reports of student accomplishments supporting a self-directed learner designation.

#### Designation of Self-Directed Learners

An application must be submitted to the building principal to be considered as a self-directed learner. The application process may be initiated by a student, their parent/guardian, or one of the student's teachers.

The application must include the following:

1. Permission from the student's parent/guardian, if under 18 years of age.
2. A recommendation that designation as a self-directed learner would be appropriate and helpful to the student by at least one of the student's teachers. This may include the recommendation of the teacher who initiated the request.
3. A description of the exemptions from standard instruction practices and requirements sought for the student. If a student is to be absent from the classroom during the usual school day, a statement of who will be responsible for supervising the student must be included.
4. An explanation of how this flexibility will aid the student in meeting their goals, as well as mastering grade-level content. For students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and above, this must include an explanation of how flexible learning will further the student's progress toward identified postsecondary goals.
5. Criteria the student will be required to meet and maintain for their designation as a self-directed learner, includes:

- A. Continued mastery of content knowledge and skills, academic growth, progress toward postsecondary goals (if the student is in Grade 8 or higher), or other measures of student learning as specified further in the request;
  - B. Compliance with the District's rules regarding student conduct, except for any from which the student is specifically exempted; and
  - C. Submission of regular updates, at the beginning of each semester, outlining the flexibility sought for upcoming instruction.
  - D. Starting in Grade 8, semester updates must include the student's progress toward post secondary career, educational, and life goals.
6. An application for designation as a self-directed learner must be submitted annually, for each school year, in which the student desires to have this designation.

The request must be submitted at least 30 (thirty) calendar days prior to the beginning of the trimester, semester, or upcoming school year. The deadline may be waived at the building principal's discretion.

The application will be reviewed by the building principal and any other staff they deem appropriate. A decision will be made within 20 (twenty) calendar days of receipt of the application. The student will be notified in writing of the status of the application. If additional information is needed, the information must be submitted within 1 (one) week of receipt of the request.

A student whose application has been denied may request a meeting with the building principal. A rationale as to why the application was denied shall be provided by the building principal. The student may reapply if there is enough time to do so within the deadline described above.

If the building principal rejects the resubmitted application, the student may appeal to the Superintendent. All decisions made by the Superintendent shall be final.

### Credit for Flexible Learning Opportunities

To receive credit for activities a student participates in as part of their flexible learning activities, a middle or high school student must:

1. Successfully complete an accredited online or correspondence course or a class taught by an Idaho school district or charter school; or
2. Earn college credit as allowed by District policy; or
3. Successfully challenge a course as described in Policy 2435, Advanced Opportunities.

### Ending Self-Directed Learner Status

The building principal shall designate a staff member to supervise the self-directed learner's educational program. The staff member shall support the student in their flexible learning, monitor their academic progress, and monitor whether they are meeting the criteria described in the application for self-directed learner status.

If the staff member determines that:

1. A student is failing to meet criteria; or
2. A student is failing to complete assignments within the time provided;

Then the staff member may submit to the building principal a written recommendation to rescind the designation of self-directed learner status. The building principal shall determine whether to rescind the self-directed learner status. A student's parent or a student with the permission of their parent (if the student is under 18 years of age) may submit notice to the District that they wish to terminate the student's self-directed learner status at the end of the trimester, semester, or school year.

### Policy History:

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Reviewed on: