

The Soda Springs School District encourages students to take advantage of Advanced Opportunities to earn credit for college and vocational programs while enrolled in the District.

The Board hereby directs the Superintendent or designee to establish timelines and requirements for participation in the Advanced Opportunities programs, including implementing procedures for the appropriate transcription of credits, reporting of program participation and financial transaction requirements.

## **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions shall apply:

“Advanced Opportunities” or “Fast Forward” programs are defined as Advanced Placement (AP) courses, Dual Credit courses, Technical Competency Credit, or International Baccalaureate programs.

“Credit” means middle level or high school credit.

”Dual credit” means credit awarded to a student on his or her secondary and postsecondary transcript for the completion of a single course.

“Full credit load” means at least twelve (12) credits per school year for grades 7-12.

“Overload course” means a course taken that is in excess of a full credit load and outside of the regular school day, including summer courses.

"School year" means the normal school year that begins upon the conclusion of the spring semester leading up to the break between grades and ends upon the beginning of the same break of the following year.

## **DUAL CREDIT FOR EARLY COMPLETERS**

*Dual credit allows high school students to simultaneously earn credit toward a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree or certificate. Postsecondary institutions work closely with high schools to deliver college courses that are identical to those offered on the college campus. Credits earned in a dual credit class become part of the student’s permanent college record. Students may enroll in dual credit programs taught at the high school or on the college campus*

Students completing all state high school graduation requirements at any time prior to the beginning of their final twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade semester or trimester term, except the senior project and any other course that the state requires to be completed during the final year of high school, are eligible to take up to eighteen (18) dual credits per semester term or twelve (12) dual credits per trimester term of postsecondary credits. Students are also eligible to take up to up to six (6)

Advanced Placement (AP), other college credit-bearing, or professional certificate examinations per semester or four (4) per trimester.

The state will reimburse the district up to seventy-five dollars (\$75) per credit hour to defray the cost charged for such dual credit courses by accredited postsecondary institutions and up to ninety dollars (\$90) per exam. If a student fails to earn credit for any course or examination for which the state has paid a reimbursement, the student must pay for and successfully earn credit for one (1) such course or examination before the state will pay any further reimbursements for the student.

### ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES

Students attending public schools in Idaho will be eligible for four thousand one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$4,125) to use toward overload courses, dual credits, college credit-bearing examinations and professional certificate examinations. Students may access these funds in grades 7 through 12 for:

- (a) Overload courses, the distribution of which may not exceed two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225) per overload course. A student must take and successfully be completing a full credit load within a given school year to be eligible for funding of an overload course. An overload course must be taken for high school credit to be eligible for funding. To qualify as an eligible overload course for the program, the course must:
  - (i) Be offered by a provider accredited by the organization that accredits Idaho public schools; and
  - (ii) Be taught by an individual certified to teach the grade and subject area of the course in Idaho.
- (b) Dual credits, the distribution of which may not exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per one (1) dual credit hour. Dual credit courses must be offered by a regionally accredited postsecondary institution. To qualify as an eligible dual credit course, the course must be a credit-bearing 100 level course or higher.
- (c) Eligible post-secondary credit-bearing or career technical certificate examinations. *A list of eligible exams and costs is available through the state department of education but will generally include the following:*
  - (i) *Advanced placement (AP);*
  - (ii) *International baccalaureate (IB);*
  - (iii) *College-level examination program (CLEP); and*
  - (iv) *Career technical examinations.*

- (d) Career technical education (CTE) including assessments that lead to a badge recognized by the division of career technical education. *A list of eligible CTE courses and costs is available through the division of career technical education.*

A student who has earned fifteen (15) postsecondary credits using the advanced opportunities program and who wishes to earn additional credits must first identify his/her postsecondary goals. Advisors will counsel any student who wishes to take dual credit courses that the student should ascertain for himself/herself whether the particular postsecondary institution that he/she desires to attend will accept the transfer of coursework credits earned.

Prior to a student participating in the program and throughout their involvement in the program, the District shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that any student who considers participating in the program also considers the challenges and time necessary to succeed in the program, including guidance on how the student's participation in the program contributes to prospective college and career pathways.

Parents of participating students may enroll their child in any eligible course, with or without the permission of the District, as prescribed in this policy. Each participating student's transcript shall include the credits earned and grades received by the student for any overload or dual credit courses taken pursuant to this policy. For an eligible course to be transcribed as meeting the requirements of a core subject as identified in administrative rule, the course must meet the approved content standards for the applicable subject and grade level.

The District shall collaborate with Idaho public postsecondary educational institutions to assist students who seek to participate in dual credit courses or graduate from high school early by enrolling in postsecondary courses.

If a student fails to earn credit for any course for which the State Department of Education has paid a reimbursement, the student must pay for and successfully earn credit for one (1) like course before any further reimbursements for the student shall be paid. If a student performs inadequately on an examination for which the State Department of Education has paid a reimbursement, the Principal shall determine whether the student must pay for and successfully pass such examination to continue receiving state funding. Repeated and remedial courses or examinations are not eligible for funding through these programs.

### **CHALLENGING A COURSE**

Idaho Code §33-4602 provides that the board of trustees may set forth criteria by which a student may challenge a course.

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*student successfully meets the following rigorous and comprehensive challenge process, the student will be counted as having completed all required coursework for that course.*

- 1. A student must be enrolled with the school district and be challenging a course that provides credit towards graduation.*
- 2. A student may not challenge a course in which the student has received prior credit, or for which the student is currently enrolled.*
- 3. A student must make a written request challenging a class to the principal or designee, setting forth the reasons for the challenge and the courses the student has previously taken or other learning experiences that have occurred which have prepared the student to challenge a course.*
- 4. A teacher who has previously taught the course being challenged at least twice may administer the course challenge process.*
- 5. The course challenge process shall include a variety of assessment techniques that measure the level of student attainment of course objectives. The assessment techniques will be developed by the teacher for the course.*
- 6. The school will determine the appropriate times when courses may be challenged.*
- 7. The student challenging the course must attain a minimum of 80% through the course challenge process in order to be granted credit for that course. The transcript for the student will identify a “pass” for the course.*
- 8. A student who is not successful in the course challenge process will not be allowed to challenge the same course a second time. In order to receive credit for the course, the student will be required to successfully complete the course.*
- 9. A student is limited to challenging    courses.*

### **ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES SCHOLARSHIP**

Any student who successfully completes public school grades 1 through 12 curriculum at least one (1) year early may be eligible for an advanced opportunities scholarship. The scholarship may be used for tuition and fees at any Idaho public postsecondary educational institution. The amount of the scholarship shall equal thirty-five percent (35%) of the statewide average daily attendance-driven funding per enrolled pupil for each year of grades 1 through 12 curriculum avoided by the student's early graduation. Students must apply for the scholarship within two (2) years of graduating from a public school.



### **LEGAL REFERENCE:**

Idaho Code Sections:

33-4601 – Definitions

33-4602 – Advanced Opportunities

IDAPA 08.02.03.106 – Advanced Opportunities

**ADOPTED: October 22, 2014**

**AMENDED: January 17, 2017, September 19, 2018**