

POLICY TITLE:	Self-Directed Learners Procedure Minidoka County Joint School District # 331	POLICY NO: 268.00 P PAGE 1 of 3
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Self-Directed Learner Procedure

Eligibility Requirements

To be designated a self-directed learner, a student must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Demonstrate mastery of content knowledge through grades, assessments, or mastery-based learning rubrics.
 2. Demonstrate mastery of addition and multiplication for numbers 0-10, as well as related subtraction and division problems. Students in grades kindergarten through 4th grade shall be exempt from this requirement.
 3. Demonstrate academic growth through at least one year's academic growth per school year as measured by the last state assessment or the equivalent.
 4. Demonstrate timeliness in returning assignments, self-motivation, ability to establish goals.
 5. Reach age-appropriate learning outcomes.
- 5-6. Other criteria determine by the district

Additionally, students in 8th grade or higher must show that they have made an informed choice of postsecondary career and education goals by:

1. Creating a full career pathway plan, also referred to as a student learning plan as defined in I.C. 33-1001(30), and keeping it up-to-date; and
2. Working toward their postsecondary goals and supplementing their student learning career pathway plan, if applicable, with such activities as participation in extended learning opportunities, advanced opportunities, challenging courses as described in Policy 267.00 Extended Learning Opportunities and Policy 276.00 Advanced Opportunities, or successful completion of an online course. The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to develop a process for a student to document their post-secondary goals for the purposes of this policy.

The Board directs the Superintendent or their designee to determine ways of establishing whether a student has met all of the criteria above. These measures may be based on the following and/or on other measures the Superintendent or their designee deems appropriate:

1. GPA and/or achievement of a minimum grade for all classes or for specified classes;
2. Scores on specified assessments;
3. A portfolio of student work;
4. Teacher reports of whether the student meets all of the criteria listed above or specific criteria.

Designation of Self-Directed Learners

To be designated a self-directed learner, a request must be submitted to the building principal or designee. The request process may be initiated by a student, their parent/guardian, or one of the student's teachers.

The request must include the following:

1. Permission of 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, this must include a statement of who will be responsible for supervising the student.
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 8th 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 to maintain their designation as a self-directed learner, such as:
 - 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 outlining the flexibility sought for upcoming instruction and how it will aid the student in meeting their goals.

Students who are in grade 8 or higher must also include a description, written by the student, of their self-determined personal life goals, including an explanation of how attending specific classes will lead to the fulfillment of personal life goals in addition to the identified postsecondary goals.

An updated request for designation as a self-directed learner must be submitted for each school year in which the student is to have this designation.

The application will be reviewed by the building principal or designee. A decision will be made within ten (10) 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 one week of receipt of the request.

A student whose request has been denied may request a meeting with the building principal or designee. They will provide the student with a rationale as to why the proposal was denied. The student may resubmit an alternate proposal if there is enough time to do so within the deadline described above.

If the building principal OR designee rejects the resubmitted proposal, 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 (students cannot be dually enrolled in core classes in two high schools, online or otherwise); or
2. Earn college credit as allowed by District policy; or
3. Successfully challenge a course as described in policy 275.00 Advanced Opportunities.

Ending Self-Directed Learner Status

The building principal shall designate a staff member to supervise the self-directed learner's educational program. This 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 request for self-directed learner status.

If a teacher determines that:

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

The teacher may submit to the building principal or designee a written recommendation to rescind the designation of self-directed learner. The building principal or designee 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 flexible learner status at the end of the quarter, semester, or school year.

ADOPTED: May 15, 2023

AMENDED: