

Concurrent Enrollment

The Board believes that students who wish to pursue postsecondary level work while in high school should be permitted to do so. In accordance with this policy and accompanying regulation, high school students may receive course credit toward the fulfillment of high school graduation requirements for successful completion of approved postsecondary courses offered by institutions of higher education.

This policy and accompanying regulation do not apply to students seeking to enroll in postsecondary courses pursuant to the Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) program or a “dropout recovery program” pursuant to the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (the Act). Students seeking to enroll in the ASCENT program or a dropout recovery program shall work with district administrators and meet the Act’s applicable requirements.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy and accompanying regulation, the following definitions shall apply.

"Concurrent enrollment" means the simultaneous enrollment of a qualified student in a district high school and in one or more postsecondary courses at an institution of higher education. Concurrent enrollment does not include a student’s simultaneous enrollment in: a district high school and in one or more secondary career and technical education courses, advanced placement courses, or international baccalaureate courses; an early college course and a postsecondary course; a p-tech school and a postsecondary course; or a district high school and a postsecondary course that does not fall within the definition of concurrent enrollment.

"Qualified student" means a person who is less than 21 years of age and is enrolled in the ninth grade or higher grade level.

NOTE: The Act provides that students are eligible to enroll in postsecondary courses beginning in ninth grade. C.R.S. 22-35-103 (15). State law requires that, beginning with the 2020-21 school year, districts that enroll students in grades nine through twelve must provide qualified students in all grades nine through twelve the opportunity to concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses as provided in the Act. C.R.S. 22-35-104 (1)(a)(I)-(III).

“Postsecondary course” means a course offered by an institution of higher education and includes coursework resulting in the acquisition of a certificate; an associate degree of applied sciences, general studies, arts, or science; and all baccalaureate degree programs.

"Institution of higher education" means:

- a. A state university or college, community college, junior college, or area vocational school as described in title 23, C.R.S.;
- b. A postsecondary career and technical education program that offers postsecondary courses and is approved by the state board for community

colleges and occupational education pursuant to applicable state law; and

- c. An educational institution operating in Colorado that meets the Act's specified criteria.

Eligibility

Qualified students seeking to enroll in postsecondary courses at the district's expense and receive high school credit for such courses shall follow the procedure accompanying this policy, including but not limited to timely submitting an application and establishing an academic plan of study. Qualified students must meet the minimum prerequisites and academic readiness for the postsecondary courses in which they seek to enroll.

The Board determines the manner in which it provides opportunities for concurrent enrollment. However, the district shall not unreasonably deny approval for concurrent enrollment or limit the number of postsecondary courses in which a qualified student may enroll unless the district is unable to provide access due to technological capacity.

NOTE: The Act provides that students are eligible to enroll in postsecondary courses beginning in ninth grade. C.R.S. 22-35-103 (15). State law requires that, beginning with the 2020-21 school year, districts that enroll students in grades nine through twelve must provide qualified students in all grades nine through twelve the opportunity to concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses as provided in the Act. State law also specifically states that while school Boards "may determine the manner in which concurrent enrollment opportunities are provided," the district and school administrators "shall not unreasonably deny a qualified student approval to concurrently enroll in a postsecondary course." Additionally, the school Board "shall not limit the number of postsecondary courses...a qualified student may concurrently enroll during the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade, except to the degree that the local educational provider is unable to provide access to the postsecondary courses due to technological capacity." C.R.S. 22-35-104 (1)(a)(I)-(III). "Technological capacity" is to be defined in rules forthcoming from the State Board of Education. See 1 CCR 301-86.

Academic credit

Academic credit granted for postsecondary courses successfully completed by a qualified student shall count as high school credit toward the Board's graduation requirements, unless such credit is denied.

High school credit shall be denied if a qualified student does not receive a passing grade for the postsecondary course. High school credit shall be denied for postsecondary courses that do not meet or exceed the district's academic standards. High school credit shall also be denied for a postsecondary course substantially similar to a course offered by the district, unless the qualified student's enrollment in the postsecondary course is approved due to a scheduling conflict or other reason deemed legitimate by the district. Concurrent enrollment is not available for summer school.

Agreement with institution of higher education

When a qualified student seeks to enroll in postsecondary courses at an institution of higher education and receive high school credit for such courses, the district and the participating institution shall enter into a written cooperative agreement in accordance with the Act.

Payment of tuition and additional costs

The district shall pay the tuition for postsecondary courses successfully completed by a qualified student and for which the qualified student receives high school credit.

NOTE: Prior to SB19-176, State law allowed the Board to determine the total number of postsecondary credit hours for which the district will pay. State law now requires that, beginning with the 2020-21 school year, districts that enroll students in grades nine through twelve must provide and pay tuition for qualified students in all grades nine through twelve the opportunity to concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses as provided in the Act. The district cannot unreasonably deny approval for concurrent enrollment or limit the number of postsecondary courses in which a qualified student may enroll, unless the district is unable to provide access due to technological capacity. C.R.S. 22-35-104 (1)(a)(I)-(III). The Act, however, does limit the number of postsecondary credit hours in which a qualified student who is not a participant in the ASCENT program and has not satisfied the Board's minimum graduation requirements by the end of the student's twelfth grade year (i.e., a fifth year student) may enroll through concurrent enrollment. The statutory limit is a maximum of nine credit hours. C.R.S. 22-35-104 (1)(d).

The tuition paid by the district for the qualified student's successful completion of an approved postsecondary course shall be in accordance with the Act and the district's cooperative agreement with the institution of higher education.

NOTE: SB19-176 repealed the provision at C.R.S. 22-35-105 (3)(b), which allowed an institution of higher education to charge additional tuition and/or associated fees to the qualified student and the qualified student's parent/guardian in addition to the tuition paid by the district. That is now prohibited. Concurrent enrollment courses are to be at no tuition cost to the qualified student and the student's parent/guardian, no matter the format or the location in which the course is delivered. The qualified student and the student's parent/guardian may be responsible for the cost of textbooks and fees.

Prior to paying the tuition for any qualified student, the district shall require the student and student's parent/guardian to sign an agreement stating if the student fails or otherwise does not complete the postsecondary course for any reason without consent of the principal of the high school in which the student is enrolled, the student and/or the student's parent/guardian shall repay the amount of tuition paid by the district on the student's behalf.

The qualified student and the student's parent/guardian shall be responsible for the cost of textbooks and fees for postsecondary courses.

Transportation

The district shall not provide or pay for the qualified student's transportation to the institution of higher education.

Notice

Information about concurrent enrollment options shall be made available to high school students and their parents/guardians on an annual basis. In addition, at least six weeks prior to the beginning of the enrollment period for postsecondary concurrent enrollment courses, written notice (which may be sent electronically) shall be provided to high school students and their parents/guardians of the postsecondary courses offered at no tuition cost to qualified students at the district and at an institution of higher education, any anticipated costs of textbooks and fees to the qualified student for those courses, and the number and transferability of course credits that a qualified student may earn by enrolling in and successfully completing a concurrent enrollment course.

NOTE: State law specifies the requirements for the required notices to high school students and their parents/guardians. See C.R.S. 22-35-104 (b)(I)-(V).

NOTE: State law requires schools to ensure that, in developing and maintaining each student's "individualized career and academic plan" (ICAP), the counselor or teacher explains to students' and their parents/guardians the requirements for and benefits of enrolling in postsecondary courses pursuant to the Act. The explanation to students' parents/guardians shall be by electronic mail or other written form. C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(nn).

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08/14/14, 04/16/2020

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(nn) (discussion of the requirements for and benefits of concurrent enrolment must be part of ICAP process)
C.R.S. 22-35-101 et seq. (Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act)
1 CCR 301-86 (State Board of Education rules regarding the Administration of the Concurrent Enrollment Program)

CROSS REFS.: IHBK*, Preparation for Postsecondary and Workforce Success
IJNDAB*, Instruction through Online Courses
IKF, Graduation Requirements
JFC, Student Withdrawal from School/Dropouts