

Post-Graduate Scholar Program

The district will provide a Post-Graduate Scholar program for students in the district. A “post-graduate scholar” means a student who has: been in grades 9 through 12 for more than a total of four school years; and satisfied the requirements for a standard high school diploma as provided by law. The Post-Graduate Scholar program may allow post-graduate scholars to: enroll in courses at a community college that are part of an approved course of study in the post-graduate scholar program in the district, in order to gain a certificate or diploma; enroll in the approved program courses of study for one school year after the post-graduate scholar has satisfied the requirements for a high school diploma in the district; and have the district pay the costs for such approved course of study, including tuition, fees and books.

Program Qualifications

A post-graduate scholar qualifies to participate in the program if the post-graduate scholar:

1. Has completed and submitted the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, if eligible to file the application;
2. Is not eligible for a grant under the Oregon Promise Program because of failure to earn the minimum cumulative grade point average, or submitted a complete application for a grant under the Oregon Promise program by the established deadline but did not receive a grant;
3. Is not eligible for a federal aid grant that is equal to or more than the average cost of tuition and fees at a community college, as determined by the U.S. Department of Education after Consultation with the Executive Director of the Office of Student Access and Completion; and
4. Retains a legal residence within the boundaries of the district through which the post-graduate scholar satisfied the requirements for a high school diploma; or was a transfer student to the district during his/her senior year and graduated or earned enough credits to graduate.

The district establishes the following additional requirements to apply as a post-graduate scholar:

1. A minimum high school GPA of 1.50 to be initially eligible; and
2. Maintaining a community college GPA of no less than 2.00 and community college course completion rate of no less than 80%; and
3. Enrollment in a minimum of eight credits per term; and
4. Regular in-person meetings with district staff to monitor progress held at least twice each month.

Program Goals

The goals of the program include:

1. Increasing the high school graduation rate for underserved students.
2. Increasing the percent of students from the district attending a postsecondary education institute.

The district will monitor program information at the end of each grading term and measure results at the end of each year.

The district approves the following courses of study for the program:

1. Courses of study that lead a student to a post-secondary certificate.
2. Courses of study that lead a student to a post-secondary degree.

Other District Requirements

The district has entered into a written agreement with the community college that has a service area within which the district is located.

The district will provide dedicated staff to provide support services to post-graduate scholars, including regular in-person meetings to monitor student progress that occur at least twice each month.

The district will ensure that a majority of the students from the district who are enrolled in courses at a community college meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Is not a post-graduate scholar;
2. Has received a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate;
3. Was enrolled in an alternative high school program within the preceding 12 months;
4. Is, or will be, a first-generational graduate of high schools;
5. Is, or has been, a child in a foster home;
6. Is, or has been, placed in a facility or an education program by a court;
7. Is homeless;
8. Is a parent; or
9. Was identified as eligible for free or reduced price lunches within the preceding 12 months.

A district may receive or expend moneys distributed from the State School fund for post-graduate scholars who enroll in courses at a community college, only if the post-graduate scholars are enrolled in the courses as part of a program established under this section. The post-graduate scholar will not be permitted to accept or use any federal grant moneys to offset costs of tuition, fees or books incurred by the post-graduate scholar at the community college.

The district will provide transportation service in existing bus routes to post-graduate scholars, and is not required to alter existing bus routes to provide such transportation.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 327.006 to -327.133](#)
[ORS 329.451](#)

[ORS 332.405](#)
[ORS 339.250](#)

[ORS 811.210](#)
[ORS 811.215](#)

No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6315, 7912.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver, July 18, 2012.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001, 42 U.S.C. §§ 11431-11435 (2005).