

## **Expanded Options Program**

The Board is committed to providing additional options to students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 to continue or complete their education, to earn concurrent high school and college credits and to gain early entry into post-secondary education. The district's Expanded Options Program will comply with all requirements of Oregon law.

### **Eligible Students**

Eligible students may apply to take courses at a post-secondary institution through the Expanded Options Program. A student is eligible for the Expanded Options Program if he/she is in grade 11 or 12 or is 16 years or older, has developed an educational learning plan and has not completed four years of high school. A student who has graduated from high school may not participate; however, a student who has completed course requirements for graduation, but who has not received a diploma, may participate in the Expanded Options Program.

### **Student Notification**

Prior to February 1 of each year, the district shall notify all high school students and the students' parents of the Expanded Options Program. The notice must include the following:

1. Financial arrangements for tuition, textbooks, equipment and materials;
2. Available transportation services;
3. The effect of enrolling in the Expanded Options Program on the student's ability to complete high school graduation requirements;
4. The consequences of failing or not completing a post-secondary course; and
5. The requirement that participation in the Expanded Options Program is contingent on acceptance by an eligible post-secondary institution.

It is a priority for the district to provide information about the Expanded Options Program to high school students who have dropped out of school. The district shall establish a process to identify and provide those students with information about the program. The district shall send information about the program to the last-known address of the family of the student.

## **Enrollment Process**

Prior to March 1 of each year, a student who is interested in participating in the Expanded Options Program shall notify the district of his/her intent to enroll in post-secondary courses during the following school year.

The district shall review with the student and the student's parent the student's current status toward meeting all state and district graduation requirements and the applicability of the proposed post-secondary course to the remaining graduation requirements.

A student who intends to participate in the Expanded Options Program shall develop an educational learning plan in cooperation with an advisory support team. An advisory support team may include the student, the student's parent and a teacher or a counselor. The educational learning plan may include:

1. The student's short-term and long-term learning goals and proposed activities; and
2. The relationship of the post-secondary courses proposed under the Expanded Options Program and the student's learning goals.

A student who enrolls in the Expanded Options Program may not enroll in post-secondary courses for more than the equivalent of two academic years. A student who first enrolls in the Expanded Options Program in grade 12 may not enroll in post-secondary courses for more than the equivalent of one academic year. If a student first enrolls in a post-secondary course in the middle of the school year, the time of participation shall be reduced proportionately. If a student is enrolled in a year-round program and begins each grade in the summer session, summer sessions are not counted against the time of participation.

## **Post-Secondary Institution Credit**

Prior to beginning a post-secondary course, the district shall notify the student of the number and type of credits that the student will be granted upon successful completion of the course. If there is a dispute between the district and student regarding the number or type of credits that the district will or has granted to a student for a particular course, the student may appeal the district's decision using an appeals process adopted by the Board.

Credits granted to a student shall be counted toward high school graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the state and the district. Evidence of successful completion of each course and credits granted shall be included in the student's education record. A student shall provide the district with a copy of the student's grade in each course taken for credit under the Expanded Options Program. The student's education record shall indicate that the credits were earned at a post-secondary institution.

## **Financial Agreement**

The district shall negotiate a financial agreement with the post-secondary institution for the payment of actual tuition, fees and other required instructional costs associated with the student's enrollment.

Each fiscal year, the district shall expend per student participating in the Expanded Options Program a minimum of 50 percent of the district's general purpose grant per extended ADMw. Qualifying expenditures include tuition, fees, textbooks, equipment and materials required for a post-secondary course.

A district may request a waiver from the Superintendent of Public Instruction if:

1. Compliance would cause the district extreme financial distress; or
2. The district offers dual credit technical preparation programs, such as two-plus-two programs, advanced placement or International Baccalaureate programs and other accelerated college credit programs, and:
  - a. The programs offered by the district serve all qualified applicants; and
  - b. There are no charges to at-risk students.

### **Student Reimbursement**

Students are not eligible for any state student financial aid, but students may apply to the district for reimbursement for any textbooks, fees, equipment or materials purchased by the student that are required for a post-secondary course. All textbooks, fees, equipment and materials provided to a student and paid for by the district are the property of the district.

### **Transportation Services**

The district may provide transportation services to eligible students who attend post-secondary institutions within district boundaries.

### **Special Education Services**

The district of a student participating in the Expanded Options Program shall be responsible for providing any required special education and related services to the student. If a post-secondary institution intends to provide special education and related services to an Expanded Options Program participant, the institution shall enter into a written contract with the district of the student. The contract shall include the following at a minimum:

1. Allowance for the student to remain in the program during the pendency of any special education due process hearing unless the parents and district agree otherwise;
2. Immediate notification to the district if the institution suspects that a student participating in the program may have a disability and requires special education or related services;
3. Immediate notification to the district if the student engaged in conduct that may lead to suspension or expulsion; and
4. Immediate notification to the district of any complaint made by the parents of the student regarding the student's participation in the program at the institution.

## END OF POLICY

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### Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 329.035](#)

[ORS 329.485](#)

[ORS 332.072](#)

[ORS 336.615 - 336.665](#)

[ORS Chapter 340](#)

[OAR 581-022](#)-1360 to -1370