

Postsecondary Options/Concurrent Enrollment

Students who are capable of and wish to pursue college level work while in high school should be permitted to do so. Under state law, the postsecondary enrollment options are available to high school students meeting specified criteria for postsecondary study. Any student participating in the program shall be granted a high school diploma upon evidence of completion of the required academic work.

The Executive Director of Secondary Schools shall coordinate the postsecondary program.

Postsecondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEO)

1. Eligibility

Any 11th or 12th grade student who is under the age of 22 shall be eligible to apply to an institution of higher education for enrollment through the PSEO program if he or she:

- a. is deemed by the student and their parent/guardian on the advice of the principal to be in need of course work at a higher academic level than that available at school;
- b. is deemed by school personnel to show a high degree of maturity and responsibility, especially with regard to potential for completing postsecondary courses;
- c. is deemed by school personnel to be in need of a different environment;
- d. has given two months' written notice to the District specifying the courses in which the student intends to enroll.

2. Academic Credit

Academic credit granted for course work successfully completed with a grade of "C" or higher by a student under this program shall count as high school credit toward graduation requirements unless credit is denied by the principal and the denial is upheld by the Superintendent and the Board of Education on the basis that such credit is inappropriate. An appeal procedure is provided in the event a student is denied high school credit. A student participating in this program shall still be considered as enrolled in the District and eligible for all high school activities.

The program is not available for summer school.

3. Agreement With Institution

When a student enrolls in courses at an institution of higher education for high school credit, the District and the participating institution shall enter into a written cooperative agreement which shall include, but not be limited to, the requirement that the student or parent/guardian shall be reimbursed by the District for the amount of tuition paid by the student or parent/guardian for two courses taken in any one academic term upon successful completion of the courses. The agreement shall include statements that any courses taken by students under this program also shall qualify as credit toward earning a degree or certificate at the institution of higher education.

4. Payment of Tuition by Student

Except as noted below, the student or parent/guardian shall be responsible for paying the tuition associated with postsecondary courses taken by the student. The District shall reimburse the student or parent/guardian for tuition paid for two postsecondary courses taken by a student for high school credit in any one academic term upon receipt of proof that the student received a passing grade of "C" or higher upon completion of the course. The District shall not reimburse the student or parent/guardian for tuition for courses not passed or for any courses in excess of two per academic term.

5. Payment of Tuition by District

The District shall pay the tuition for the first two courses per academic term for any student who is eligible for a free or reduced cost lunch.

The District may pay tuition for the first two courses per academic term for any student if the payment of tuition would constitute a financial hardship for the student or parent/guardian and the student has shown evidence of responsibility for and commitment to successfully completing postsecondary courses.

Prior to paying the tuition for any student, the District shall require the student and parent/guardian to sign a promise to repay the amount of tuition paid by the District on the student's behalf if the student fails or otherwise does not complete the postsecondary course for any reason without consent of the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled. This agreement shall be enforced by the District and the student or parent/guardian shall be responsible for reimbursing the District as provided in the promise.

6. Transportation Costs and Fees

The District shall not provide or pay for transportation to the institution of higher education or for any fees which may be assessed.

7. Notice to Students and Parents/Guardians

Information about the postsecondary options program, including the appeals procedure if high school credit is denied, shall be distributed annually to all students in grades nine through 12 and to their parents/guardians. Notice shall be given to allow sufficient time for students and parents/guardians to consider this option.

8. Reports to State Board

The Board shall comply with all reporting requirements of the State Board of Education.

Adopted September 12, 1984

Revised April 26, 1989

Revised to conform with practice: date of manual revision

Revised September 9, 1998

Revised May 8, 2002

Revised August 24, 2005

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-34-101 (High school fast track program)
C.R.S. 22-35-101 *et seq.* (Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act)

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado