

## Senior Year Plus Program Issues

As the Senior Year Plus legislation starts its fourth year, below are highlights regarding either amendments to the law or additional information about various aspects of SYP programming:

1. **Concurrent enrollment courses and withdrawals.** Questions have come up regarding students who withdraw from a concurrent enrollment course.
  - a. **Effect on student grades.** The district and community college should include in their concurrent enrollment agreements provisions about deadlines for dropping such courses so that students and their families are clear as to when a withdrawal will result in a failing grade. If the district and college have different drop dates, they do not need to be reconciled. However, the district needs to communicate to the student that meeting the college's drop date may prevent an —F|| on the college transcript, but not on the high school transcript if the high school has an earlier drop date.
  - b. **Effect on supplementary weighting.** A school district may obtain supplementary weighted funds only for those students of the district who are enrolled in a concurrent enrollment course for the entire duration of the course.
  - c. **Concurrent enrollment courses and secondary credit only.** A student may NOT be enrolled in a concurrent enrollment course for secondary credit only. This would essentially be auditing the course with respect to college credit, and the law prohibits this. This means that a student may not be either allowed to enroll in a concurrent enrollment course from the start of the course merely for secondary credit or may not drop the course at any time from postsecondary credit consideration.
  
2. **Home schoolers.** Another amendment to the law gives students under Competent Private Instruction (home schooled students) additional means by which to show proficiency. A student under CPI must demonstrate proficiency in reading, mathematics, and science, but may do so by any of the following means:
  - a. By testing at or above the 41<sup>st</sup> percentile on ITEDs; or
  - b. By submitting a written recommendation of the licensed teacher who supervises the student's instruction; or
  - c. By testing at or above the 41<sup>st</sup> percentile on another annual achievement evaluation approved for CPI students (this includes any test on the list at [http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=301&Itemid=1335](http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=301&Itemid=1335)); or
  - d. With a composite score of at least 21 on the ACT; or
  - e. With a total combined score of at least 141 in critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills on the PSAT; or
  - f. With a total combined score of at least 990 in critical reading and mathematics on the SAT; or
  - g. By meeting any other proficiency standard approved by the local school board for all regularly enrolled students.