

Senior Year Plus Guide

F.A.Q. Addendum

3.02.2010

22.1

Q. Are foreign students eligible for Senior Year Plus programs?

A. First disclaimer: there is no one size fits all guidance for this area of law. Take the following guidance as it is intended to be – very general statements.

Resident students who may be undocumented: These are students who reside in Iowa; whether they have proper documentation to be here legally is irrelevant to school districts. K-12 school officials do not make inquiry into the citizenship status of students who clearly reside in their district. The district of residence provides all educational benefits, including Senior Year Plus (SYP) programs and extracurricular programs, to such students.

Two cautionary notes:

- (a) If a resident student who may be in the U.S. undocumented desires to partake of an SYP course for both secondary and postsecondary credit, the student should be counseled that the postsecondary institution *could* deny the student access to the course. Also, while district officials may and should truthfully reassure the student that no one from the district will report any suspicions about the student's status to federal authorities, the district cannot guarantee the same about officials at the postsecondary institution.
- (b) Same as above, but the course is one that requires a background check (such as a course in a healthcare field), the student should be counseled that the background check cannot be done if the student does not have a Social Security Number. District officials are not to ask the student whether s/he has an SSN; just provide the information and let the student make an informed decision about whether to proceed with signing up for the course.

Foreign exchange students (J-1 visa holders): These are students who are sponsored by an organization such as Rotary, Youth for Understanding, etc., and who reside with a host family. These students are not residents of the district, and a district cannot include them on certified enrollment. The district is neither required to nor prohibited from allowing J-1 students to access SYP programming.

Foreign students, non-exchange (F-1 visa holders): District officials will recall that they are required to collect full tuition for F-1 students. Therefore, there is no financial disincentive for allowing these students to access SYP courses.

Finally, when in doubt always give the benefit of any doubt to the student and allow them access to SYP programming.

22.2

Q. Do students need to meet Senior Year Plus eligibility criteria to enroll in Advanced Placement® courses?

A. No. Advanced placement courses are not courses delivered by a postsecondary institution and thus college credit is not awarded upon completion. Instead, credit may be awarded by the postsecondary institution in which the student later matriculates based on that institution's policies and the students' AP® exam score. The Senior Year Plus academic proficiency requirement applies to students enrolling in any postsecondary course through a Senior Year Plus program including PSEO, concurrent enrollment, and certain career academy courses.

22.16

Q. May a district set a deadline for PSEO enrollment?

A. The district may set a reasonable deadline and address any issues related to the deadline on a case-by-case basis, provided the deadline is communicated to students (including home school students) and parents. The example provided on page 17 of the guide is intended for planning purposes only. Districts adopting deadlines for notices of intent enroll in PSEO courses should consider setting fall and spring deadlines that allow for proper enrollment of the student prior to the start of the semester. If a parent feels the deadline established by the district is unreasonable, they may appeal the district's decision to the State Board of Education.

22.11

Q. May a concurrent enrollment course also be offered as Advanced Placement®?

A. No. Advanced Placement® courses are ineligible for supplementary weighting as indicated on page 23 of the Senior Year Plus Guide. Concurrent enrollment courses must be taught using the community college's syllabus. However, individual students may take AP® exams without having taken an AP® course -- including upon completion of a concurrent enrollment course.

22.11(3)

Q. May a district offer concurrent enrollment foreign language courses to fulfill minimum 'offer and teach' accreditation requirements?

A. No. Community college credit courses may not be utilized to meet offer and teach accreditation requirements for foreign languages or for any other academic area except career and technical education and for Project Lead the Way® courses. See pages 25 and 26 of the guide for additional information. Any courses above and beyond minimum requirements may be delivered through concurrent enrollment provided eligibility guidelines are met.

22.21(3)

Q. May a district sell a textbook used for a PSEO course to the student that took the course?

A. Assuming the district retains ownership of the text per agreement with the college (see previous question), there is nothing that prevents a district from selling the book to a student if the student would like to purchase it (this could be done with other district textbooks as well).

22.2

Q. If a student does not meet the academic proficiency requirements in reading, mathematics, and science at the district level for enrollment in a concurrent enrollment course, but he or she meets the requirements of the postsecondary institution, may the student pay tuition and take the contracted college credit course?

A. If a high school student wishes to enroll independently as a tuition-paying student, they may do so (the student pays the college the tuition, not the district) provided they meet the college's enrollment requirements including any prerequisite(s) or academic assessment(s). The student would not need to meet Senior Year Plus requirements (including academic proficiency). While the student could enroll in the course independently, nothing would compel the district to grant high school credit (the district should consult its local policy) or include evidence of this enrollment on the student's high school transcript.

At least one section of any college course offered for concurrent enrollment must be available to regular college students during the semester in which the course is offered for concurrent enrollment. If another section is available, the section may be closed to regular college students. In the situation whereby a high school student is enrolling as a tuition-paying student, the student should be treated the same as other regular tuition-paying students – either excluded or allowed to enroll in the high school section based on local policy.

The student could enroll in any other section of the course offered by the college, provided the student meets the college's enrollment requirements and the district's attendance policy. The district would not be compelled to allow the student to leave district grounds to attend a college course that is not offered through concurrent enrollment or PSEO (i.e. not offered through Senior Year Plus). The student/parent should consult with the district prior to enrollment to ensure the district attendance policy would allow the student to do so.

Correction:

The answer to the FAQ item on page 42 under career academies should read: If the course generates college credit upon successful completion, Senior Year Plus requirements apply. This includes student eligibility criteria.