



## Accessing Postsecondary Courses Contracted Through a Summer School Program

The Iowa Department of Education has received inquiries regarding the use of contracted courses through the concurrent enrollment program, also known as district-to-community college sharing, outside of the regular academic school year through a summer school program. It is not permissible for a school district or community college to enter into a sharing agreement for concurrent enrollment coursework over the summer months through a summer school program.

*... “Concurrent enrollment” means any course offered to students in grades 9 through 12 during the regular school year approved by the board of directors of a school district or authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school through a contractual agreement between a community college and the school district or authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school. The course shall meet the provisions of Iowa Code section 257.11(3). (281 22.6 (261E))*

However, a school district and community college may establish a contractual arrangement outside of the concurrent enrollment program to offer such coursework through a summer school program.

### What does this mean?

In practice, this means a school district may make available postsecondary coursework through a summer school program via a contractual agreement with a community college that falls outside of the Senior Year Plus concurrent enrollment program. Courses must be offered during the summer and outside of the regular school year to qualify.

The school district, in collaboration with the community college will need to establish the contractual agreement terms and conditions. This agreement should be approved by each institutions board of directors.

### Are students required to meet entrance requirements set forth by the postsecondary institution?

Students may be required to meet the enrollment requirements established by the eligible postsecondary institution.

### Is the school district required to award high school credit for the successful completion of a contracted summer course offering?

If the school district is contracting for a course, high school credit should be awarded to any student who successfully completes the course. The number of high school credits awarded would be determined locally by the board of directors of the participating school district.

### Are summer contracted courses eligible for supplementary weighted funding?

No, supplementary weighted funding only applies to regular curriculum offered by the school district (257.11 (1)). Summer school programming is not considered part of a school districts regular curriculum or course offerings.

## **May a school district count student enrollment in a contracted summer course towards their certified enrollment?**

No, summer school enrollment is not collected through student reporting in Iowa (SRI) and therefore is not eligible to be counted towards a school districts certified enrollment.

## **May contracted summer courses be used to meet a school districts offer and teach requirement?**

No, offer and teach requirements shall only be met by the school district during the regular academic year. Summer school programs/courses do not apply.

## **Who is responsible for the cost of enrollment?**

Provided the student enrolls through the school district, the district shall pay the tuition on behalf of the student to the eligible postsecondary institution; however, the school district may pass along the cost of tuition to a student and/or the students family to cover the instructional costs for the summer school program (Iowa Code 282.6, subsection 2). Under this arrangement, school districts are required to adopt a policy that includes provisions for a waiver of fees (281 18.2(256)). The waiver process helps to reduce the impact of fees on students and families with limited ability to pay. The fee established for summer school programs and courses is determined locally by the school district's board of directors.

A school district may choose, but is not required, to cover the instructional costs for students participating in a contracted course through a summer school program. If a school district covers the instructional costs, the school district may use general funds to cover those expenses. The use of a school districts general fund is not limited to the regular school year. School districts may also utilize grants and donations to cover associated instructional costs.

Lastly, this guidance impacts only those contracted course opportunities offered outside of the Senior Year Plus program through a school districts summer school program. Opportunities provided to students through the Summer College Credit Program fall under the purview of Senior Year Plus and the provisions of IAC 281 section 22.33 apply.

## **Contact:**

Please contact Jen Rathje at [jennifer.rathje@iowa.gov](mailto:jennifer.rathje@iowa.gov) or 515-326-5389 with questions or comments.