

Senior Year Plus Guide

F.A.Q. Addendum

5.23.11

22.2(2)

Q. Do student proficiency requirements apply to career and technical courses delivered through a contractual agreement with a community college for college and high school credit that are used to meet a district's minimum "offer and teach" accreditation requirements?

A. No. Student proficiency requirements do not apply to CTE courses used to meet district accreditation requirements. Districts may not claim supplementary weighted funding for these courses as they are not considered concurrent enrollment.

22.2(2)

Q. How do student proficiency requirements apply to students under competent private instruction (CPI)?

A. A student under competent private instruction shall meet the same proficiency standard as students in the school district in which the student is dually enrolled and shall have the approval of the school board in that school district to register for the postsecondary course. In lieu of ITBS or ITED scores as the state assessment, a school district shall accept either the annual assessment instrument used by a student under CPI pursuant to Iowa Code section 299A.4 or the written recommendation of the licensed practitioner providing supervision to the student under CPI pursuant to Iowa Code section 299A.2.

22.4

Q. May a community college prohibit PSEO enrollment?

A. No. Community colleges must make PSEO available to all eligible students.

22.4(1)

Q. May a district set criteria for enrollment in Senior Year Plus programming beyond the student proficiency requirements such as a certain grade in a high school course, a certain high school GPA, etc?

A. No. Senior Year Plus expressly prohibits districts from placing restrictions on participation in Senior Year Plus programming beyond that which is specified in statute or administrative rule. Districts do, however, have a significant role in advising and helping students enroll in appropriate coursework.

22.4(1)

Q. May a district prohibit a student from enrolling in a concurrent enrollment course if the student has failed a previous concurrent enrollment course?

A. No. That said, districts have a strong role in advising students about the consequences of failing college courses.

22.4(1)

Q. May a district cap the number of PSEO or concurrent enrollment courses a student may take, requiring them to pay for additional college credit courses?

A. No. School districts may not set restrictions on enrollment in Senior Year Plus programming beyond that which is specified in Iowa Code and administrative rule.

22.7

Q. Do advanced placement courses need to be offered face-to-face to meet the requirement that districts make AP® courses available.

A. No. Online AP® courses meet this requirement.

22.11

Q. May concurrent enrollment courses be designated as Advanced Placement® courses?

A. Following an internal review, the department has revised its previous position that concurrent enrollment courses may not be designated as Advanced Placement® courses. Senior Year Plus legislation allows concurrent enrollment courses eligible for supplementary weighting to also be designated as AP® by the College Board provided that all requirements are met. A guidance document titled “Interplay between Advanced Placement® Courses and Concurrent Enrollment Courses” is posted on the Senior Year Plus section of the department website and details the requirements. This guidance replaces all previous guidance on this issue. Please note that concurrent enrollment courses, including those receiving AP® designation, must use the college’s syllabi and may not be delivered over the course of an entire school year.

22.11

Q. May districts charge a textbook fee for concurrent enrollment courses?

A. For concurrently enrolled students, textbooks must be provided to students in the same way as districts provide books for other courses pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 301. By district policy, a school may rent a textbook, require a student to buy a book, or provide books at no cost. A guidance document titled “Additional Guidance on District Textbook Fees for Concurrent Enrollment Courses” is posted on the Senior Year Plus section of the department website and details the requirements.

22.11

Q. May a district charge students for optional exams (e.g., Project Lead the Way exams)?

A. Provided the exam is truly optional, the district may pass along the fee.

22.11

Q. May a district pass along to a student the fee for a criminal background check required by state law before certain health occupations students can participate in clinical or field experience?

A. Yes.

22.11

Q. May students be charged the district's cost if a student fails a concurrent enrollment course.

A. No. While districts may charge students if they fail to successfully complete a course through PSEO, this provision does not extend to concurrent enrollment courses. Students may not be charged any fee or penalty for withdrawing or failing a concurrent enrollment courses. The department's website has additional guidance on what fees districts may charge. While no fee may be charged, there is an important advising role for high schools since students need to understand the importance of being ready for college level work and having a failing grade on their college transcript.

22.11

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

A. Yes, provided the deadline is reasonable and communicated to students and parents.

22.11(5)

Q. May a district assign a pass/fail grade on the student's high school transcript for a concurrent enrollment course which uses letter grades on the college's transcript?

A. For concurrent enrollment courses, districts grant high school credit upon successful completion and determine the number of high school credits awarded. In the same manner, a district may award different grading symbols (e.g., pass/fail) per its policy. The only restriction on grade assignment is that a district may not award a passing grade when a postsecondary institution awards a failing grade for a given course.

22.17

Q. May an eligible student enroll in a course via PSEO if a comparable course is offered during the same school year through concurrent enrollment?

A. No. A district can not offer the same course as a concurrent enrollment and a PSEO course. If a district offers a concurrent enrollment course it is then part of the district offerings. A district can not then offer this same course as a PSEO course.

22.28

Q. May asynchronously delivered online courses be eligible for concurrent enrollment?

A. Yes. The instructional minutes reported by each community college will be used in the supplementary weighting calculation. Please refer to the supplementary weighting section of the department's website for additional information.

97.2

Q. Can a concurrent enrollment section be delivered on the premises of an accredited non-public school?

A. No. To participate in concurrent enrollment, eligible students must enroll through the public school district. Only public school districts are eligible to receive supplementary weighted

funding for concurrent enrollment through Senior Year Plus. If the public school district provides eligible students the option of taking a given concurrent enrollment course at a public school or community college location, eligible nonpublic school students must be given the same option. If the concurrent enrollment course is only available at the public school location (according to the school district and community college contractual agreement), then nonpublic school students must attend at that location to participate. Regardless of delivery mode, concurrent enrollment offerings may not be delivered at the accredited nonpublic school location.

Nonpublic districts may contract directly with a community college for delivery of courses for high school and college credit (similar to concurrent enrollment), but the public school district may not be a party to this contract and it cannot generate supplementary weighted funding. Please note that if a comparable course is available at the public school OR the nonpublic school, then it is not eligible to be delivered through Senior Year Plus.

12.5(5)

Q. May a district apply for and receive a waiver for the third or fourth year of a foreign language and offer one or more foreign language courses in the same language via concurrent enrollment?

A. No. This option is not available to districts. All Iowa school districts are required to offer-and-teach a four-unit sequence of uninterrupted study in at least one language per 281—IAC 12.5(5)(h). A waiver provision is provided for the 3rd and 4th units if all of the following occur:

- The class is properly scheduled, and students are aware of the course offerings;
- The district can document the 3rd and 4th units of the foreign language sequence is assigned a schedule that allows students to enroll;
- The district can document it employs a teacher with the corresponding licensure /endorsements to teach the four-unit sequence of foreign language;
- The district can document the local school board has approved the request to be waived from the 3rd and 4th sequential units of the foreign language.

Concurrent enrollment, part of the Senior Year Plus Program, is designed to supplement the basic high school program (offer-and-teach) by providing college level courses to students who have exhausted all local opportunities and are who are prepared for college level coursework. It is not intended to supplant the basic high school program and provide weighted dollars to the district at the same time. Districts may not allow students to complete the first two units of foreign language, bypass the 3rd and 4th units, concurrently enroll in college level foreign language, file a waiver with the Department assuring that no students enrolled in the 3rd and 4th units, and apply for supplemental weighting. The waiver provision only applies in situations where no students enrolled in the class. Concurrent enrollment is an option for only those students who are ready for the challenges of college level work.

Foreign language courses may be offered for concurrent enrollment provided all Senior Year Plus requirements are met and the courses are not used to meet district minimum accreditation requirements. A district may request and receive a waiver (provided all requirements are met), if the concurrent enrollment course(s) is in another foreign language. Additionally, foreign language courses may be offered through concurrent enrollment within the same language used to meet district “offer and teach” accreditation requirements provided those requirements are

satisfied using high school credit only offerings (i.e., four Carnegie units offered and taught, etc.).

22.17

Q. Is a district required to allow a student to re-take a course under PSEO?

A. A district may, but is under no obligation to, allow a student to re-take a course under PSEO. If the student had failed, the district could allow a subsequent passing grade to replace the F on the student's permanent record as long as the student (if in extracurriculars) "sat out" the requisite 30 days for the initial F.

22.4(1)

Q. Can a district prevent students who previously withdrew (or failed) from a CE course from taking a future CE course.

A. No. Districts may not place restrictions on SYP programming beyond that which is specified in statute or rule (281—IAC 22.4(1)(h)).