

Advanced Opportunities Overview

Advanced Opportunities are defined in State Board policy IIIY, as the following: Dual Credit, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Tech Prep. IDAPA Rule 08.02.036.106 requires that all high schools offer at least one of these on their high school campus or make them available for their students at the postsecondary campus.

The state of Idaho provides funding through the State Department of Education for students to participate in Advanced Opportunities through the Fast Forward Funding Program. Details about Advanced Opportunities can be found in Idaho Code 33, Chapter 46. Highlights include:

Fast Forward Funding

Students attending an Idaho public school (at least one course) in grade 7-12 have access to \$4,125.00 to use towards the following activities:

- Overload courses: High school classes that are in excess of their regular school day (12 credits minimum). Students can use up to \$225.00 towards the cost of each overload course.
- Dual credits: Courses that are transcribed on both the high school and college transcripts. Students can use up to \$75.00 toward the cost of each credit.
- Examinations: Students can use funds to pay for college-credit bearing and professional certification exams. These include AP, IB, CLEP and PTE exams.

Students who fail a course paid for by these funds cannot continue to participate until they pay for and pass a "like" course. Students who fail an exam can participate at the discretion of the school district. All students will begin with a clean slate beginning July 1st, and will need to sign a participation form provided by the SDE

Early Graduation

- Students can receive a scholarship for 35% of their ADA to an Idaho public post-secondary institution of their choice for each year early that they graduate (up to three years).
- Students must use the scholarship within two years of graduation before it expires.
- Local school districts receive an equal award amount for each student that graduates early, regardless of whether or not the student uses the scholarship.

Challenging Courses

- Local school districts may allow students to earn high school credit by testing out of a course or otherwise demonstrating mastery.
- The process and assessment type for challenging a course shall be established by the local school board.
- School districts can receive ADA for such activity as though the student sat in for the course, up to 1 full-time ADA per pupil.

District Considerations

According to the law governing Advanced Opportunities, school districts must create policies and procedures for participation in Advanced Opportunities, and may not prohibit students from participating. School district personnel have an obligation to assist parents and students in the enrollment process of these programs, and must report all activity within the same fiscal year. The SDE suggest that school districts consider the following items as a part of their implementation plan:

- Assign a point person in your district who communicates regularly with the Advanced Opportunities Support Team
- Have a communication plan to get word out to students and families
- Evaluate and clean up district enrollment policies for full-time, part-time, and minimal-time attendance
- Establish guidelines and recommendations for younger students participating in high school and dual credit
- Student learning plans (4-6 years out) should include components of Advanced Opportunities
- Discussions and policies around how fifth year seniors can participate in Advanced Opportunities
- Policies and reporting practices surrounding students who attend classes on a post-secondary campus
- Transcription of high school credits for middle school student, and college credits for high school students
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Advanced Opportunities Portal

Funding for Fast Forward is tracked through the Advanced Opportunities Portal. School districts are the gatekeepers of how and when students utilize their Fast Forward funds. Each semester, the school district must submit a request for payment through the portal. Any funding that is related to a public post-secondary provider, or IDLA will be directly sent to the provider. Any funds related to private entities or examinations will be sent to the school district, at which point, the district will be responsible to forward these funds to the proper entity/individual.

For any questions related to Advanced Opportunities, please contact:

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