

Advanced Opportunities

Advanced Opportunities programs have been consolidated for the 2016/2017 school year into a simpler, easier to use format that include clarification to definitions and expansion of the Fast Forward program:

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.

Post-Secondary Credit Scholarship

Students who earn dual credits in high school may be eligible for a scholarship to an institution in Idaho, as follows:

Credits Earned	Scholarship Amount
10	\$2,000.00
20	\$4,000.00
Associates Degree	\$8,000.00

Scholarship Distribution

The scholarship is paid out in one-quarter increments over a four semesters. Students must be enrolled as full-time students and must pass at least 12 credits each semester to continue receiving the scholarship. Students must use their scholarship within four years of their high school graduation date before the scholarship expires. Scholarship funds can be used at accredited Idaho institutions.

Industry Match

- To receive funds, the student must be awarded a merit-based scholarship from another source in an amount at least equal to the post-secondary scholarship amount.
- Match funds must come from business or industry, or an entity representing business or industry such as a foundation.

Funding

- Funding for this scholarship comes from the Advanced Opportunities appropriation.
- In FY17, this scholarship is limited to \$1,000,000.00.
- In FY18 and forward, this scholarship is limited to \$2,000,000.00.

District Responsibilities

- School districts must create policies and procedures for participation in Advanced Opportunities.
- School districts may not prohibit students from participating.
- School district personnel have an obligation to assist parents and students in the enrollment process of these programs.
- School districts must report all activity within the same fiscal year (i.e., make-up payments for previous school years are not available).

Things to Consider:

- Communication plan with parents
- District enrollment policies for full-time, part-time, and minimal-time attendance
- Exception processes for younger students participating in dual credit
- Students learning plans should include Advanced Opportunities as an option
- Considerations for fifth year seniors
- Policies surrounding students who attend classes on a post-secondary campus

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