

ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES



Web-based Portal 2.1
County User Guide
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Program Support

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Additional resources are available for on the Advanced Opportunities website
<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/sectr/adv-opp/index.html>

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Program Overview

Fast Forward

The Fast Forward program provides every student attending an Idaho public school an allocation of \$4,125.00 to use towards Advanced Opportunities in grades 7-12. The program was expanded by the Legislature in 2016 and can be found in §33-4602. The funds can be used for:

- **Overload Courses**

An overload course is a high school level course that is taken in excess of the student's regular school day. These courses are offered online, during the summertime, and after school. In the event that student incurs a cost for such courses, the Fast Forward program can pay up to \$225.00 for the cost of the course. Overload courses must be above and beyond the full course load offered by the student's local school.

- **Dual Credit Tuition**

Students earn dual credit by taking courses that are recorded on both a high school and a college transcript. The Fast Forward program can pay for up to \$75.00 per credit, and in most cases, the cost of these credits is \$65.00. Dual Credit courses can be taken in a student's high school, online, by virtual conferencing, or in some cases directly on the college/university campus. More information on specific Idaho colleges and universities can be found in the Links tab.

- **Exams**

Student can utilize Fast Forward funds to pay for a variety of college credit-bearing or professional technical exams. These include Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), or Career-Technical Education (PTE / CTE) exams. A full list of qualifying exams and the maximum reimbursement possible is available in the Resource Files on the State Advanced Opportunities website.

Challenging Courses

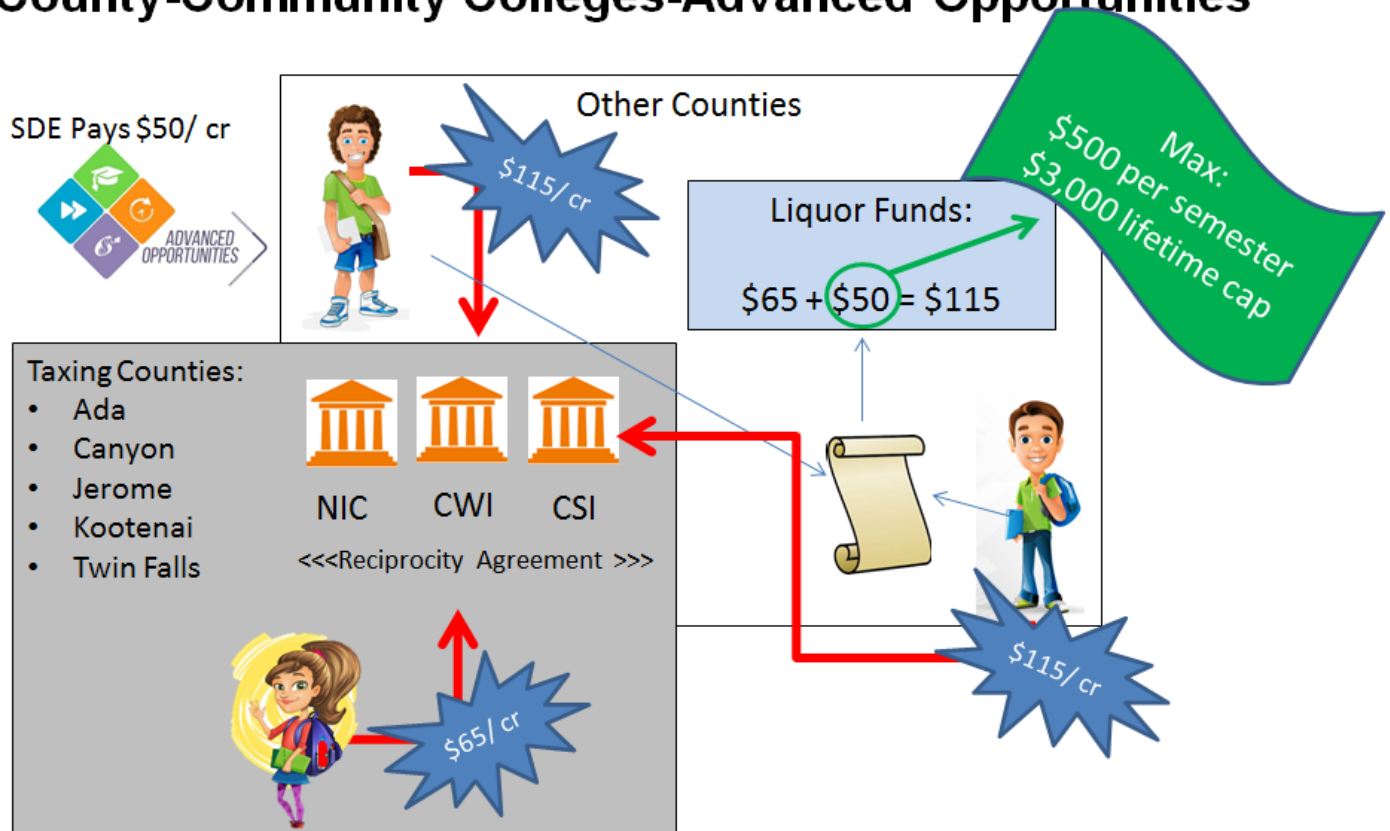
Many school districts provide options for students to challenge courses for credit. In most cases, this means that a student would request to challenge a course by taking an exam. If the student meets the level of mastery set by the local school board for a given set of standards, the school can grant the student a high school credit without requiring that the student take the course. Contact your local school district for a list of courses eligible for challenge under Advanced Opportunities.

Early Graduation Scholarship

Early Graduation Scholarships are available for students who graduate at least one full year early from a public high school. These scholarships are equal to 35% of the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for a given school year. This equates to roughly \$1,500.00.

Scholarships can be used at Idaho public post-secondary institutions. The award amount will double for students who graduate two years early and will triple for students who graduate three years early. If a student elects not to attend a college or university immediately after high school, they will have up to two years to utilize the scholarship before it expires.

County-Community Colleges-Advanced Opportunities



Rationale

Advanced Opportunities provides state aid for high school students to take advantage of dual credit college courses. Because counties are billed out-of-district tuition for students attending community college, counties can be reimbursed for courses taken with the assistance of the Fast Forward program.

What is Out-of-District Tuition?

- There are four community colleges in the state of Idaho: North Idaho College, College of Western Idaho, College of Southern Idaho, and College of Eastern Idaho. The existence of these colleges is largely dependent on the property taxes of their respective counties: Ada, Bonneville, Canyon, Jerome, Kootenai, and Twin Falls. Therefore, students who reside within these six counties are able to acquire dual credits at a cost of \$65 per credit. Students who live in the one of the other 38 counties, and attend community college, are charged an additional \$50 per credit, resulting in a final cost of \$115 per credit. According to Idaho code §33-2110A, counties are responsible to help students

pay for a portion of this tuition, however students must first prove their residency in the county by submitting a Certificate of Residence. Students are still responsible for \$65 per credit and the county covers the additional \$50 per credit. The county is responsible for providing this benefit to residents up to \$500 each semester, and a total of \$3,000 per resident.

Why is the SDE involved?

- Fast Forward, administered by the State Department of Education (SDE), is a program that provides financial benefits to Idaho students to help pay for overload courses, dual credit courses, and various examinations. Due to the expansion of the Fast Forward program, the number of dual credits taken by Idaho students has grown substantially, resulting in larger payments required by counties. In an effort to hold counties harmless, Idaho code §33-4602 authorized the SDE to reimburse counties for courses that were paid for using Fast Forward funding.

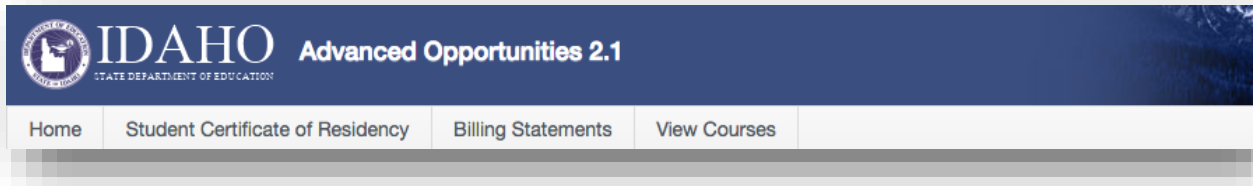
What is the Advanced Opportunities Portal?

- To ensure that counties are accurately reimbursed for these students, counties are granted access to the Advanced Opportunities Portal. In this portal, counties can view dual credit courses that are taken by their residents from Idaho community colleges. The portal provides a mechanism for counties to indicate whether or not a student has a Certificate of Residency on file, and also generates a detailed receipt for each payment made to counties by the SDE. Counties must complete reporting duties in the portal in order to receive reimbursement from the SDE for eligible out-of-county tuition.

Portal Access

Before accessing the portal, you will need to create an ISEE account with the SDE by going to <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/tech-services/isee/index.html>. After creating an account, you will need to contact our IT department at (208) 332-6980 to gain access to the portal.

Upon entering the portal, you will find the following options across the top:



If you do not see these options, please contact our IT department to ensure that the correct role has been assigned to you.

Student Certificate of Residency

In this view, county users will see a list of students from their county who are taking courses at an Idaho community college.

As the courses are added to the queue, county users must verify whether or not the student has an approved Certificate of Residency. If the student's certificate is approved, place a check mark in the box. If the student does not have an approved certificate on file, leave the box blank.

| School Year | Term Type Name | Granter Name | Advanced Opp | Resident District | Student Name | Course Name | Status Text | Certificate Of Resi |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2015-2016 | Fall | College of Western Idaho | Fast Forward | 283 - KENDRICK JOINT DISTRICT | Jane Doe | Communicati... 101 | Paid | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

County users can search for specific students or courses by using the filter feature in each column. For additional search features this report can be exported into an Excel spreadsheet by selecting "Export to CSV."

As students request funding for courses, their requests are processed at several different levels. As the course moves through the verification process, the status listed will change. As a course is entered by students and district personnel, it will go through the following status sequence:

| | Status | Description |
|-----|--|---|
| The | <i>Pending Initial Approval</i> | <i>The student has submitted a reimbursement and the district/district hasn't approved or denied it</i> |
| | <i>School Level Approval Received</i> | <i>The school has approved the reimbursement, the entry is still editable by district users</i> |
| | <i>Pending SDE Approval</i> | <i>The reimbursement has been submitted to SDE</i> |
| | <i>Approved</i> | <i>The reimbursement has been approved by SDE and is being prepared for payment</i> |
| | <i>Paid</i> | <i>The SDE has made a tuition payment to the college for this course</i> |
| | <i>Denied</i> | <i>The school/district denied the reimbursement</i> |
| | <i>Rejected</i> | <i>The reimbursement has been revised and denied</i> |

“denied” and “rejected” statuses only apply to a course that cannot be processed due to an error (for example, the student was not in fact registered for a course that was entered).

Please note that “paid” does not indicate payment to the county, but rather that payment for the course has been made to the college on behalf of the student.

A receipt for out-of-county tuition paid to the county is located in the “Billing Statements” tab.

Deadlines

Throughout the semester, school districts may add, edit, or delete courses. During school terms, county users can log into the portal and begin selecting students who have submitted a Certificate of Residency. Be aware that data is subject to change until the school districts courses to the SDE. District submissions must be finalized by the following dates (noted in the “District Submission Deadline” column below).

After these submission dates, the county has **three weeks** during which it must verify approval of Certificates of Residency. Counties must log in during the following windows to complete this process:

| Term | District Submission Deadline | Certificate of Residency Verification Window |
|-------------|------------------------------|--|
| Fall 2017 | Nov 10, 2017 | Nov 13, 2017 – Dec 1, 2017 |
| Spring 2018 | May 4, 2018 | May 7, 2018 – May 28, 2017 |

* When finished, please contact Tina Polishchuk at the SDE to indicate that your county's verification is complete: (208) 332-6944 | tpolishchuk@sde.idaho.gov

View Courses

The “View Courses” tab maintains a record of all past community college dual credit courses entered for students from your county.

Billing Statements

The “Billing Statements” tab is a summary of all courses for which the county has received reimbursement.

Billing Review

This page shows data for courses that have been payed for by the state.

[Export to CSV](#)

Drag a column header and drop it here to group by that column

| Billing Statement | Bill Paid To | Advanced Opp | Provider | Billing Item Type | Student | Student EduID | Course/Exam Name | Billing Item Amount |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 34 | LATAH | Fast Forward | College of Southern Idaho | Course | Jane Doe | 0000000 | CSIW 111 Web Authoring DC IDLA HTML | \$150.00 |

Each item has a correlating billing statement number. Payments made to counties are aggregated by the billing statement number.

This view can be exported into an Excel spreadsheet, by selecting “Export to CSV.”

Thank you for your dedication to Idaho students!

The State Department of Education is appreciative of all the efforts put in by county personnel to ensure that benefits of Advanced Opportunities are paid out to Idaho students. Additionally, we are committed to ensuring effective implementation of these programs. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to contact the [Advanced Opportunities Support team](#).

