IHCDA - Post-Secondary Enrollment Options

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The intent of this policy is to establish the requirements for student enrollment in post-secondary courses taken before high school graduation.

Eligible Institutions

Students may take courses at eligible post-secondary institutions within Maine, which include the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy.

Students may be allowed to take courses at private colleges or other institutions. Any such requests shall be considered on a case-by-case basis to the extent that funds are available.

Student Eligibility Requirements

A student may take up to 12 credit hours per academic year.

As provided by law, a student must meet the following criteria prior to enrolling in a post-secondary course:

A. Have a minimum of a “B” [or 3.0] average in his/her courses overall;

B. Meet the course admission standards of the eligible institution;

C. Provide evidence of parent/guardian approval for taking the course; and

D. Obtain approval from the principal and guidance counselor.

Exceptions to Eligibility Requirements

A student enrolled in grade 11 or 12 who does not meet the “B” [or 3.0] average in his/her courses overall is eligible to take a post-secondary course provided that he/she:

A. Has been assessed and received a recommendation to take the course from the school administration; and

B. Has been approved for participant in the course by the eligible institution.

Awarding of Credits

The eligible institution shall grant full credit to any student who successfully completes a course.

High school graduation credit for a course taken under this policy shall be awarded as follows:

A. The course must meet for a minimum of one semester.

B. The student must earn a passing grade in the course.

C. Attendance must satisfy the instructor's requirements.

D. If the above criteria are met, the student shall receive one Carnegie unit of high school credit for each course.

Financial Assistance

A. The Maine Department of Education shall pay 50% of the applicable in-state tuition costs for the first 6 credit hours taken each semester by a student at an eligible institution and up to 12 credit hours per academic year. The eligible institution may not make any additional tuition charges for the course but may impose fees and charges, other than tuition, that are ordinarily imposed on students not covered by this policy.

B. The student and his/her parent/guardian are responsible for paying

a. for all textbooks, course fees and transportation costs.

b. If the student qualifies for free or reduced lunch, MSAD #35 shall pay the cost of textbooks, course fees, and additional non-funded tuition fees.

C.If a student is approved for attendance at a private or out-of state institution (public or private), the student and his/her parents shall be responsible for paying for all course fees, textbooks and transportation costs. Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis to the extent that funds are available.

MSAD #35 Reporting Requirements

The Superintendent shall ensure that information concerning post-secondary enrollment options is made available to parents and students.

The Superintendent shall provide an annual report to the Board regarding the number of students taking courses at post-secondary institutions and the courses taken.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 4771 et seq.

20-A MRSA § 4775 et seq.

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