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**AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**APS Code: IHEDA**

**Adopted October 1990**

**Recoded March 1993**

**Revised April 2006**

**Revised September 2007**

**Revised January 2013**

**Reviewed November 2014**

**Revised May 2021**

**Revised August 2021**

**Revised October 2022**

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## **CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT**

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The board believes that students who wish to pursue postsecondary level work while in high school should be permitted to do so. In accordance with this policy and accompanying regulation, high school students may receive course credit toward the fulfillment of high school graduation requirements for successful completion of approved postsecondary courses offered by institutions of higher education.

This policy and accompanying regulation do not apply to students seeking to enroll in postsecondary courses pursuant to the Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) program. Students seeking to enroll in the ASCENT program shall work with district administrators and meet the applicable requirements of the Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act (the Act).

### **Definitions**

For purposes of this policy and accompanying regulation, the following definitions shall apply.

"Concurrent enrollment" means the simultaneous enrollment of a qualified student in a district high school and in one or more postsecondary courses at an institution of higher education.

"Qualified student" means a person who is less than 21 years of age and is enrolled in the 9th grade or higher grade level.

"Postsecondary course" means a course offered by an institution of higher education and includes coursework resulting in the acquisition of a certificate; an associate degree of applied sciences, general studies, arts, or science; and all baccalaureate degree programs.

"Institution of higher education" means:

- a. A state university or college, community college, junior college, or area vocational school as described in title 23, C.R.S.;

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- b. A postsecondary career and technical education program that offers postsecondary courses and is approved by the state board for community colleges and occupational education pursuant to applicable state law; and
- c. An educational institution operating in Colorado that meets the Act's specified criteria.

### **Eligibility**

Qualified students seeking to enroll in postsecondary courses at the district's expense and receive high school credit for such courses shall follow the procedure accompanying this policy (IHEDA-R).

### **Academic Credit**

Academic credit granted for postsecondary courses successfully completed by a qualified student shall count as high school credit toward the board's graduation requirements, unless such credit is denied.

High school credit shall be denied for postsecondary courses that do not meet or exceed the district's standards. High school credit shall also be denied for a postsecondary course substantially similar to a course offered by the district, unless the qualified student's enrollment in the postsecondary course is approved due to a scheduling conflict or other reason deemed legitimate by the district. Concurrent enrollment is not available for summer school. However, in an effort to support and accelerate students due to COVID-19, concurrent enrollment is available for the 2021 summer session.

### **Agreement with Institution of Higher Education**

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When a qualified student seeks to enroll in postsecondary courses at an institution of higher education and receive high school credit for such courses, the district and the participating institution shall enter into a written cooperative agreement in accordance with the Act.

#### **Payment of Tuition**

The district will pay the tuition for postsecondary courses in accordance with the Act and the district's cooperative agreements with the institution of higher education. A qualified student may enroll in up to 24 credit hours of postsecondary courses per academic term. The qualified student or the student's parent/guardian will be responsible for textbooks and materials required for the postsecondary course(s).

The tuition paid by the district for the qualified student's successful completion of an approved postsecondary course shall be in accordance with the Act and the district's cooperative agreement with the institution of higher education. The institution of higher education may charge additional tuition and/or associated fees to the qualified student or the student's parent/guardian in addition to the tuition paid by the district.

Prior to paying the tuition for any qualified student, the district shall require the student and student's parent/guardian to sign an agreement stating if the student fails or otherwise does not complete the postsecondary course for any reason without consent of the principal of the high school in which the student is enrolled, the student and/or the student's parent/guardian shall repay the amount of tuition paid by the district on the student's behalf.

#### **Transportation**

The district shall not provide or pay for the qualified student's transportation to the institution of higher education.

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### **Notice**

Information about concurrent enrollment options and the benefits of participating in concurrent enrollment during high school will be provided to middle school students and their parents/guardians electronically at least once during the school year and at least once during the summer.

### **ASCENT**

The ASCENT program permits eligible students to participate in a fifth year of high school while enrolled concurrently. An ASCENT program participant shall not be considered a high school graduate until he or she has completed his or her participation in the ASCENT program and any remaining graduation requirements. To participate in the program, students must meet the following qualifications:

- Have completed or is on schedule to complete at least 12 credit hours (semester hours or equivalent) of postsecondary course work prior to the completion of his or her 12<sup>th</sup> grade year;
- Is not in need of basic skills coursework;
- Have been selected for participation in the ASCENT program by his or her high school principal;
- Have satisfied the minimum prerequisites for the course before his or her enrollment in the course; and
- Have not participated in the ASCENT program in previous years.

**LEGAL REFS.:** C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(nn) (discussion of the requirements for and benefits of concurrent enrollment must be part of ICAP process)

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C.R.S. 22-35-101 et seq. (Concurrent Enrollment Programs Act)

C.R.S. 23-60-202.7 (requirement to provide information concerning concurrent enrollment to parents of middle school students)

1 CCR 301-86 (State Board of Education rules regarding the Administration of the Concurrent Enrollment Program)

CROSS REFS.: IKF, Graduation Requirements

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### **1. Academic Plan of Study**

The qualified student shall establish, in consultation with the principal/designee, an academic plan of study that describes all of the courses (including postsecondary courses) the student intends to complete to satisfy the board's high school graduation requirements. Prior to the qualified student's enrollment in a postsecondary course, the superintendent/designee shall review and approve the student's academic plan of study in accordance with applicable State Board of Education rules.

A qualified student shall not concurrently enroll in a basic skills course unless he or she is enrolled in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade in a local education provider.

Students who do not have enough graduation credits by the end of their fourth year and return for a fifth year of high school may not enroll in more than six postsecondary credit hours.

### **2. Application**

The qualified student shall complete the district's concurrent enrollment application form and submit it to the principal/designee at least 60 days prior to the end of the academic term immediately preceding the term of the student's proposed enrollment in a postsecondary course. The student and the parent/guardian must sign the form indicating that they have read the statements concerning participation in the Concurrent Enrollment Program. The requested postsecondary course(s) on the student's application shall be consistent with the student's approved academic plan of study. The superintendent/designee may waive the 60 day requirement at his or her discretion.

The principal/designee shall sign the form and send it to the superintendent/designee.

The superintendent/designee shall approve or disapprove the student's application in accordance with this regulation's accompanying policy and shall notify the student of the decision. The decision of the superintendent/designee shall be final.