

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

This policy establishes 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, Maine Maritime Academy, and other private post-secondary learning institutions within the state of Maine.

Student Eligibility Requirements

A student may take no more than 12 credit hours at eligible institutions per academic year. Under current law, the Maine Department of Education will pay 50% of the in-state tuition for the first 6 credit hours taken each semester by a student with a limit of 12 for the academic year. RSU 3 will pay 50% of the in-state tuition for the first 6 credit hours taken each semester by a student with a limit of 12 for the academic year.

A student must meet the following criteria prior to enrolling in a post-secondary course:

- A. Have a minimum of a B average [**or 3.0**] in his/her courses overall, unless the eligible institution has waived the minimum grade/grade point requirement;
- B. Meet the course admission standards of the eligible institution;
- C. Provide evidence of parent/guardian approval for taking the course; and
- D. Receive a recommendation to take a postsecondary course or courses from the school administration or one of the student's secondary school teachers following an assessment of the student by the administration.

A student enrolled in grade 11 or 12 who does not have a B average [**or 3.0**] 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 or from a secondary school teacher; and
- B. Has been approved for participation in the course by an 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 course must meet any applicable Learning Results standards.
- C. The student must earn a passing grade in the course.
- D. Attendance must satisfy the instructor’s requirements.
- E. If the above criteria are met, the student shall receive 1 full credit for each 3 credit class toward graduation

Financial Assistance

- A. The Maine Department of Education shall pay applicable tuition costs (up to the limits of legislative appropriation) for any student enrolled in a course under this policy if the eligible institution requires tuition payment.
- B. The student and his/her parent/guardian are responsible for paying for all textbooks, fees and transportation costs.

School Unit Reporting Requirements

The high school principal shall make parents and students aware of post-secondary enrollment options through handbooks or other appropriate means.

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

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA Section 4771 et seq.
Chapter 127 (Maine Department of Education Rules)

First Reading: December 11, 2017
Second Reading: January 16, 2018

Adopted: January 16, 2018

(Replaces IHCD-2014)