

St. Maries Joint School District No. 41 provides opportunities for students to begin earning credit for college and vocational programs, and/or take advanced placement or other college credit-bearing or professional certificate examinations while they attend school in the District.

In order to ensure that students have a chance to participate in advanced opportunity programs, the Board hereby directs the Superintendent to establish timelines and requirements for financial transactions and transcribing credits that meet the State Department of Education reporting requirements for each program.

DEFINITIONS

“Credit” means middle or high school credit.

“Dual credit” means credit awarded to a student on his or her secondary and postsecondary transcript for the completion of a single course.

“Full course load” means at least twelve (12) credits per school year for grades 7-12.

“Overload course” means a course taken that is in excess of a full course load, including summer courses.

“School year” means the normal school year that begins upon the conclusion of the break between grades and ends upon the beginning of the same break of the following year.

MASTERY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Students who successfully complete grades 1-12 at least one (1) year early may be eligible for a mastery advancement scholarship, regardless of whether the District is participating in the mastery advancement program. A student shall be eligible if he or she:

1. Shows that he or she has met all of the graduation requirements of the District;
2. Completes grades 1-12 curriculum in eleven (11) or fewer years; and
3. Has attended schools in the Idaho public school system for at least four (4) years.

Students who have attended Idaho public schools for less than four (4) years and who have completed all graduation requirements may be eligible to receive a mastery advancement scholarship at a reduced rate not to exceed one (1) semester of scholarship for each year of Idaho public school attendance.

A student is not required to graduate early and can choose to participate in dual credit or advanced placement classes.

If an eligible student requests a mastery advancement scholarship, the student shall be entitled to such a scholarship which may be used for tuition and fees at any publicly funded institution of higher education in Idaho. The amount of such scholarship shall equal thirty-five percent (35%) of the statewide average daily attendance-driven funding per enrolled student for each year of grades 1-12 curriculum the student avoids due to early graduation. No student shall be eligible for more than three (3) years of a mastery advancement scholarship.

The District shall collaborate with publicly-funded institutions of higher education in Idaho to assist early-graduating students in enrolling in postsecondary or advanced placement courses held in high school.

DUAL CREDIT FOR EARLY COMPLETERS

Students in the District completing all State high school graduation requirements at any time prior to the beginning of their final 12th grade semester or trimester term, except the Senior Project and any other course that the State Board of Education requires to be completed during the final year of high school, shall be eligible for assistance in paying for the following:

1. Up to eighteen (18) credits per semester term or twelve (12) credits per trimester term of dual credit postsecondary courses. Average daily attendance shall be counted as normal for such students for public school funding purposes; and
2. Up to six (6) advanced placement or other college credit-bearing or professional certificate examinations per semester or four (4) per trimester.

COURSE AND EXAMINATION FEE PAYMENT

Any student in a District high school who has attained grade eleven (11) and who has not qualified for the Dual Credit for Early Completers program shall qualify for the amount established by the State Board of Education for up to three postsecondary semester or equivalent credits and examinations. Any District high school student who has attained grade twelve (12) and who has not qualified for the Dual Credit for Early Completers program shall qualify for the amount established by the State Board of Education for up to six postsecondary semester or equivalent credits and examinations. These moneys may be used to pay an amount not to exceed the price to the student of such courses and examinations, except that the combined amount for such credits earned and examinations shall not exceed the dual credit fee set by the State Board of Education for those credits.

If a student fails to earn credit for any course or examination for which the State Department of Education has paid a reimbursement, the student must pay for and successfully earn credit for one (1) such course or examination before any further reimbursements for the student can be paid.

8 IN 6 PROGRAM

The “8 in 6 Program” provides a means for students to complete high school, and the first two (2) years of college or professional-technical preparation in six (6) years rather than eight (8) through overload courses.

The State Department of Education will pay for a portion of the cost of overload courses for students who chose to participate in the “8 in 6 Program”. To participate, a student and their parent/guardian must sign a form provided by the State Department of Education agreeing to the following:

1. The student shall take and successfully complete dual credit or professional-technical education courses for at least a portion of the student's courses during the eleventh (11th) and/or twelfth (12th) grade years;
2. The student shall take and successfully complete at least one (1) overload course and a full course load;
3. The State shall pay the lesser of the actual cost or Two Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars (\$225) per one (1) credit overload course taken in this program.
4. The State shall pay for no more than:
 - A. Two (2) credits of overload courses per student per semester;
 - B. Four (4) credits of overload courses per student per year; and
 - C. A combined total of eight (8) credits of overload courses per student during such student's participation in the program.

Students accepted into the program shall remain in the program from year to year unless they sign a withdrawal form.

If a student participating in the program fails to complete with a grade of "C" or better one (1) or more summer online or online overload courses while in the program, the student must pay for and successfully complete a summer online or online overload course with a grade of "C" or better before continuing in the program.

The District shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that any student who considers participating in the program considers the challenges and time necessary to succeed in

the program. The District shall make such efforts prior to a student’s participation in the program.

For a course to qualify for this program, it must also be offered by a provider accredited by the organization that accredits Idaho high schools and be taught by an individual certified to teach the grade and subject area of the course in Idaho. Parents/Guardians of participating students may enroll their student in any eligible course, with or without the permission of the District, up to the course enrollment limits described in this Policy. Each participating student's transcript shall include the credits earned and grades received by the student for any online courses taken pursuant to this Policy. For an eligible course to be transcribed as meeting the requirements of a core subject, the course must meet the approved content standards for the applicable subject and grade level.

Policy Cross Reference:

Legal Reference:

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| Idaho Code §33-4601 | Definitions |
| Idaho Code §33-4602 | Advanced Opportunities |
| Idaho Code §33-4603 | “8 in 6 Program” |
| Idaho Code §33-4604 | Mastery Advancement Program |

Policy History:

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| Reviewed: | 08/19/2014 |
| Adopted: | 08/19/2014 |
| Reviewed: | 07/13/2015 |
| Amended: | 07/13/2015 |