

REGIONAL SCHOOL UNIT NO. 18

File: IHCDA

POST-SECONDARY OPTIONS/CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

This policy establishes the requirements for student enrollment in post-secondary courses taken before high school graduation. Students at Messalonskee High School may be permitted to take courses under programs, offered to high school students by post-secondary institutions, if the students are approved as eligible to take post-secondary courses by the high school principal.

Eligible Institutions

Students may be allowed to take courses at private colleges or other institutions, including courses offered through the DOE Distance Learning Network or the Internet. Any such requests shall be considered on a case-by-case basis to the extent that funds are available and the requirements of this policy are met.

Student Eligibility Requirements

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

1. Demonstrated evidence of successful progress as outlined in Graduation Policy IKF.
2. 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.
3. Meet the course admission standards of the eligible institution.
4. Exhibit appropriate school citizenship.
5. Provide evidence of parent/guardian approval for taking the course.
6. 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.
7. The student will remain enrolled in the Messalonskee School District during this period and receive other school support services.

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:

1. has been assessed and received a recommendation to take the course from the school administration or from a secondary school teacher; and
2. has been approved for participation in the course by an eligible institution.

The high school administration shall have the following responsibilities:

1. The guidance department will direct the screening and selection process for each request for attendance at a post-secondary institution, with the final decision made by the high school principal.
2. Necessary transcripts and recommendations will be available.

3. Cooperation with the post-secondary institution on follow-up of the student's activity will exist.
4. Proper entry will be made in the student's high school record.
5. Credits may be granted for approved study.

The student and/or parent shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Make all arrangements with the post-secondary institution with the exception of the selection and academic processes.
2. Assume all financial obligations for the course work. Students needing special consideration for financial aid should contact the Guidance Department and the administration. Special needs will be reviewed on an individual basis.
3. Provide transportation to and from the post-secondary institution.
4. Absolve School Unit of liability while attending or traveling to and from the post-secondary institution.

Granting Messalonskee High School Credit for High School Students Who Take College Courses

All Messalonskee High School students who take college courses at accredited colleges will have those course grades recorded on their Messalonskee High School transcript. In addition, any Messalonskee High School student who takes said college course(s) may receive Messalonskee High School credit. If a student chooses to take the course for credit, the student must declare that intent as he/she enrolls in the college course. If a student takes a college course for high school credit, that grade will be matriculated into the student's grade point average (GPA). If a student takes a college course and chooses not to have it count toward high school credit, the grade received will not be included in the student's GPA.

Suggested options for the paragraph above:

- Honor this wording and weight all A.P. and College Courses
- Delete the wording and only weight A.P. courses
- Weight both A.P. and College Courses at a reduced weight. Currently the weight we apply to A.P. courses is 1.25%
- Eliminate the weighting of grades in all courses.

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 & Common Core State standards.
- C. The student must earn a passing grade in the course.
- D. Attendance must satisfy the instructor's requirements.

If the above criteria are met, the student shall receive 1 credit.

Financial Assistance

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.

The student and his/her parent/guardian are responsible for paying for all textbooks, course fees and transportation costs.

Students needing special consideration for financial aid should contact the Guidance Department and the administration. Special needs will be reviewed on an individual basis.

School Unit Reporting Requirements

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

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

Date of Adoption: September 15, 2010