

POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

261C.1 Title.

This chapter may be cited as the "*Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act*".

87 Acts, ch 224, §35

261C.2 Policy.

It is the policy of this state to promote rigorous academic or vocational-technical pursuits and to provide a wider variety of options to high school pupils by enabling ninth and tenth grade pupils who have been identified as gifted and talented, and eleventh and twelfth grade pupils, to enroll part-time in nonsectarian courses in eligible postsecondary institutions of higher learning in this state.

87 Acts, ch 224, § 36; 90 Acts, ch 1253, § 18; 92 Acts, ch 1110, § 1

261C.3 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "*Eligible postsecondary institution*" means an institution of higher learning under the control of the state board of regents, a community college established under chapter 260C, or an accredited private institution as defined in section 261.9, subsection 1.

2. "*Eligible pupil*" means a pupil classified by the board of directors of a school district, by the state board of regents for pupils of the school for the deaf and the Iowa braille and sight saving school, or by the authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school as a ninth or tenth grade pupil who is identified according to the school district's gifted and talented criteria and procedures, pursuant to section 257.43, as a gifted and talented child, or an eleventh or twelfth grade pupil, during the period the pupil is participating in the enrollment option provided under this chapter. A pupil attending an accredited nonpublic school shall be counted as a shared-time student in the school district in which the nonpublic school of attendance is located for state foundation aid purposes.

87 Acts, ch 224, § 37; 90 Acts, ch 1253, § 19; 91 Acts, ch 126, § 4; 92 Acts, ch 1110, § 2; 93 Acts, ch 69, § 1

261C.4 Authorization.

An eligible pupil may make application to an eligible institution to allow the eligible pupil to enroll for academic or vocational-technical credit in a nonsectarian course offered at that eligible institution. A comparable course, as defined in rules made by the board of directors of the public school district, must not be offered by the school district or accredited nonpublic school which the pupil attends. If an eligible institution accepts an eligible pupil for enrollment under this section, the institution shall send written notice to the pupil, the pupil's school district or accredited nonpublic school or the school for the deaf or the Iowa braille and sight saving school, and the department of education. The notice shall list the course, the clock hours the pupil will be attending the course, and the number of hours of postsecondary academic or vocational-technical credit that the eligible pupil will receive from the eligible institution upon successful completion of the course.

87 Acts, ch 224, § 38; 90 Acts, ch 1253, § 20; 91 Acts, ch 123, § 1; 92 Acts, ch 1110, § 3; 93 Acts, ch 69, § 2

261C.5 High school credits.

A school district, the school for the deaf, the Iowa braille and sight saving school, or accredited nonpublic school shall grant high school academic or vocational- technical credit to an eligible pupil enrolled in a course under this chapter if the eligible pupil successfully completes the course as determined by the eligible institution. Eligible pupils, who have completed the eleventh grade but who have not yet completed the requirements for graduation, may take up to seven semester hours of credit during the summer months when school is not in session and receive credit for that attendance, if the pupil pays the cost of attendance of those summer credit hours. The board of directors of the school district, the state board of regents for the school for the deaf and the Iowa braille and sight saving school, or authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school shall determine the number of high school credits that shall be granted to an eligible pupil who successfully completes a course.

The high school credits granted to an eligible pupil under this section shall count toward the graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the school district of residence, the school for the deaf, the Iowa braille and sight saving school, or accredited nonpublic school of the eligible pupil. Evidence of successful completion of each course and high school credits and postsecondary academic or vocational-technical credits received shall be included in the pupil's high school transcript.

87 Acts, ch 224, §39; 90 Acts, ch 1253, § 21; 91 Acts, ch 123, §2; 93 Acts, ch 69, § 3

261C.6 School district payments.

Not later than June 30 of each year, a school district shall pay a tuition reimbursement amount to an eligible postsecondary institution that has enrolled its resident eligible pupils under this chapter, unless the eligible pupil is participating in open enrollment under section 282.18, in which case, the tuition reimbursement amount shall be paid by the receiving district. However, if a child's residency changes during a school year, the tuition shall be paid by the district in which the child was enrolled as of the third Friday in September or the district in which the child was counted under section 257.6, subsection 1, paragraph "f". For pupils enrolled at the school for the deaf and the Iowa braille and sight saving school, the state board of regents shall pay a tuition reimbursement amount by June 30 of each year. The amount of tuition reimbursement for each separate course shall equal the lesser of:

1. The actual and customary costs of tuition, textbooks, materials, and fees directly related to the course taken by the eligible student.
2. Two hundred fifty dollars.

A pupil is not eligible to enroll on a full-time basis in an eligible postsecondary institution and receive payment for all courses in which a student is enrolled.

87 Acts, ch 224, §40; 90 Acts, ch 1253, § 22; 93 Acts, ch 69, § 4; 96 Acts, ch 1215, § 40; 2002 Acts, ch 1129, §2

261C.7 Transportation.

The parent or guardian of an eligible pupil who has enrolled in and is attending an eligible postsecondary institution under this chapter shall furnish transportation to and from the eligible postsecondary institution for the pupil.

87 Acts, ch 224, §41

261C.8 Prohibition on charges.

An eligible postsecondary institution that enrolls an eligible pupil under this chapter shall not charge that

pupil for tuition, textbooks, materials, or fees directly related to the course in which the pupil is enrolled except that the pupil may be required to purchase equipment that becomes the property of the pupil. However, if the pupil fails to complete and receive credit for the course, the pupil is responsible for all costs directly related to the course as provided in section 261C.6 and shall reimburse the school district for its costs. If the pupil is under eighteen years of age, the pupil's parent, guardian, or custodian shall sign the student registration form indicating that the parent, guardian, or custodian is responsible for all costs directly related to the course, if the pupil fails to complete and receive credit for the course.

If the local area education agency verifies that the pupil was unable to complete the course for reasons including but not limited to the pupil's physical incapacity, death in the family, or the pupil's move to another school district, a verification by the area education agency shall constitute a waiver to the requirement that the pupil, pupil's parent, guardian, or legal custodian pay the costs of the course to the school district.

87 Acts, ch 224, §42; 93 Acts, ch 117, § 1

261C.9 Tuition refund.

An eligible postsecondary institution shall make pro rata adjustments to tuition reimbursement amounts based upon federal guidelines established pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1091b.

93 Acts, ch 117, §2