
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONDUCTS WEBINAR ON NEW SUMMER COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM

Webinar on New Program. On November 27, 2018, the Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation in the Department of Education conducted a webinar for community college staff in regard to implementation of the new Summer College Credit Program (SCCP) for high school students. Eric St. Clair, a consultant in the Bureau of Career and Technical Education, and Division Administrator Jeremy Varner presented the information and responded to questions from participants.

Background. During the school year, school districts receive additional school aid through supplementary weighting for students taking concurrent enrollment courses through the community colleges under the Senior Year Plus Program. However, school aid is not available as a vehicle for funding those kinds of opportunities during the summer. [House File 2458](#) (Future Ready Iowa Act), enacted in the 2018 Legislative Session, authorized the Department of Education to establish a program to provide students in grades 9 through 12 similar opportunities to earn college credit during the summer months. The programming must be aligned with career pathways leading to postsecondary credentials and high-demand jobs designated by the Workforce Development Board or a community college. Community colleges cannot charge students for the classes. Students will be eligible for enrollment for the summer after eighth grade through high school graduation.

The Department received a \$600,000 General Fund appropriation for FY 2019 in [SF 2415](#) (Education Appropriations Act), enacted during the 2018 Legislative Session, to fund the Program. The Department has issued a Notice of Intended Action on proposed administrative rules, with expected adoption in early January 2019.

Development and Submission of Proposals. Administrator Varner noted that because the funding is limited, the first year of implementation should be viewed as a proof-of-concept pilot that can make the case for additional funding in future years. In general, the SCCP functions like standard concurrent enrollment, except that the courses are not eligible for supplementary weighting. Community colleges will submit program proposals to be evaluated by the Department based on several criteria. Priority consideration will be given to programs that ensure geographic dispersal around the state. Other criteria include alignment to high-demand jobs; cost factors such as the numbers of students served and credit hours offered; the inclusion of extracurricular experiences with an emphasis on problem-, project-, and work-based learning; and provisions to address and remove barriers for nontraditional, underrepresented minority, and low-income students.

Each proposal must describe the courses to be made available and detail all minimum and required costs of the Program. Each proposal must specify the maximum number of students the Program can serve, as well as the minimum enrollment threshold to offer the Program.

Allocation of Funding. For FY 2019, the \$600,000 in funding will be split equally between Base Funding and Enrollment Funding. Each approved program will receive Base Funding equal to the minimum and required costs identified in the proposal. The total amount allocated to Base Funding for the SCCP will not exceed \$300,000. Theoretically, each of the 15 community colleges would receive approximately \$20,000 in Base Funding; however, the actual amounts are likely to vary somewhat based on program needs.

Enrollment Funding will be allocated based on each program's enrollment above the minimum threshold identified in the proposal. The enrollment number used for this purpose will be the number of students enrolled on the third day of the program. In future years, Enrollment Funding will grow as a percentage of total funding until it reaches the maximum of 80.0% in FY 2022.

Timeline. Program proposals will be due to the Department of Education on January 11, 2019. The Department will complete the evaluation of proposals and issue notices of approval by February 1, 2019, at which time colleges can begin implementation. Base Funding allocations will be distributed to colleges by the end of February. It is anticipated that students will enroll for the summer courses at the same time they sign up for courses for the 2019-2020 school year.

Because the funding is for FY 2019, approved programs must begin on or before June 24, 2019, and all student counts must be submitted to the Department by June 26. The Department will use the counts to calculate Enrollment Funding and will release funds to colleges by June 30.

Other Highlights. During the question and answer session at the end of the webinar, the presenters noted that the community colleges will need local school boards to approve the courses before students can enroll, so it will be important to begin working with the school districts soon. The colleges were encouraged to find ways to involve school districts and other partners in providing support and resources. It was noted that neither students nor districts can be billed for any course costs, including textbooks, and that courses may be a combination of online and face-to-face learning.

More Information. A recording of the [webinar](#) and the webinar [slides with notes](#) are available on the Department's website.

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