



IOWA

Department of Education

Ryan M. Wise, Director

Kim Reynolds, Governor
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Department of Education background statement for Senior Year Plus Proficiency Requirements

261E.3(1)(e)

To enroll in college credit courses via concurrent enrollment or Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), a high school student must meet academic standards set by the postsecondary institution (e.g., placement assessment cut scores or prerequisites; a certain ALEKS score to enter College Algebra), which is the same for regularly-enrolled college students and high school students. Currently, high school students also have to be proficient at grade level in reading, math, and science to take any courses via concurrent enrollment. With the changes to the new Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) proficiency standards, many students will lose access to college credit courses.

For example, a student who is not proficient on the 10th grade science assessment will not be eligible to enroll in College Composition I or Western Civilization. This issue does not impact students enrolling in college credit courses within CTE disciplines. The Department proposes the removal of state proficiency requirements for eligibility. However, students are still expected to meet all general college requirements and, if required, program specific entrance requirements.

The removal of the proficiency requirement will most likely result in more students eligible to participate in arts and science community college coursework through concurrent enrollment and could result in an increase in the amount of supplementary weighting awarded to districts via the school funding formula.

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