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HIGH SCHOOLS

QUESTION: Who may take advantage of the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEOP)?

ANSWER: Any authorized student enrolled in Ohio public schools, in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 may choose to participate under Option “A” or Option “B”.

(Examples of unauthorized students would include foreign students who are not a part of an exchange program, out-of-state students, and students coded as unauthorized through EMIS, etc.)

Any Ohio resident, nonpublic student in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 may choose to participate if the nonpublic school is a participant in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

QUESTION: If a high school senior needs one required course to graduate and opts not to take it until a later time, can he/she continue to take college courses for another year?

ANSWER: No. Students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program are limited to a maximum of four academic years for those beginning as freshman and one academic year for those beginning as seniors.

QUESTION: Can a student defer graduation and still be eligible for PSEOP for another year or until they are 21?

ANSWER: A student is only entitled to participate in PSEOP for the number of years dictated by their grade when they begin participation. A 9th grader would be entitled to 4 years, a 10th grader to 3 years, an 11th grader to 2 years, and a 12th grader to 1 year. Students required to attend high school for more than 4 years to obtain a degree as a result of an illness or some other extenuating circumstance are still only eligible to participate in PSEOP for the maximum number of years available when they began participation, for example, not to exceed 4 years if they began when they were in 9th grade. If they began the program in 12th grade and participated, but required an extra year to graduate, they would not have any eligibility left the second year of 12th grade.

QUESTION: Can a local board of education prevent a student from taking a particular college course if it is stated in local board policy?

ANSWER: No. Students who meet the eligibility requirements of the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program may not be prevented by school officials from enrolling in college courses for high school graduation credit. However, counseling services provided must include discussing with students and their parents the risks and consequences associated with participating, such as how the grades will be used to calculate GPA and class rank, both of which are local decisions.

QUESTION: Can a public school require a student to take a minimum number of classes at the public school before it approves participation by one of its students in PSEOP? This question relates to home school students who attempt to enroll in a public school for the sole purpose of participating in PSEOP.

ANSWER: If a school has a policy in place that requires full-time enrollment, or defines some minimum number of classes must be taken, and every student in the school is enrolled and attending according to the policy, then it would be possible for the school to require that some classes be taken at the school, if an equivalent full-time load is **not** being taken at the college through PSEOP.

If the school has a policy in place that requires a certain number of classes to be taken in order to enroll in the school, then it must be determined if the policy is being administered consistently as to all students enrolled in the school.

If the school has students who are only taking one class, or less than a full load of classes as defined by the school, the school cannot selectively enforce requiring a minimum number of classes be taken, even if a policy specifying this requirement is in place. To enforce the policy, there must only be full-time students attending the school.

QUESTION: Can a student take night classes?

ANSWER: Yes. Students who meet the criteria necessary to participate are not limited to the hours of the official school day for scheduling college courses.

QUESTION: Do study halls count as courses?

ANSWER: No.

QUESTION: What responsibility will the guidance counselors have in providing counseling services about this option throughout the summer when the staff is on summer break?

ANSWER: None. Students who indicate interest in participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, together with their parents, must be provided with the counseling specified (see synopsis of Rule 3). Students must express an intent to participate in the program by March 30 for the following school year, unless given special authorization by the district superintendent, governing authority of the community school, or nonpublic administrator. Home school districts should provide all students participating in PSEOP with all school services normally provided to other students throughout the year.

QUESTION: What are the legal ramifications for a district if a student takes class at the college three days a week and comes back to school property on the off days or to participate in extracurricular activities?

ANSWER: Students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program remain high school students. They are entitled to participate in appropriate school district activities so long as they meet the criteria established by district policy or administrative procedures for participation by all students. Students who are earning all graduation credit through enrollment in college courses have no legal requirement to be in attendance at the high school, but they continue to be entitled to the resources available to all students.

QUESTION: If a high school student takes courses during second semester at college, and this course is not over by graduation, will the student be able to graduate?

ANSWER: Many issues related to the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program will need to be addressed by local policy and administrative procedures. If a district has a policy requiring that all graduation requirements must be completed in order to participate in graduation ceremonies, and insists upon enforcing that policy, the participating student may have to forego participating in the ceremonies and receive his/her diploma upon completion of all graduation requirements. It is extremely important that students and their parents are aware of such policies and their implications prior to participation in the program.

QUESTION: If a student is taking classes at the college and the semester ends in May, but the student's high school calendar isn't completed until June, who is responsible for his time and does the student have to come back to high school until June?

ANSWER: In general, it is not necessary to require the student to return to the high school other than for courses and/or other appropriate activities. This depends in large measure, however, upon individual circumstances and school district policy and administrative procedures. Courses taken through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program need to be implemented, as most educational options, to allow for modification of instructional time requirements. Students and parents need to understand the social and academic risks associated with participation in the program.

QUESTION: Can there be an agreement between the colleges and high school not to accept a student after a certain date?

ANSWER: Students who wish to participate in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program must express their intent to school officials by March 30, for the following school year. Failure to do so will make them ineligible to participate in the program without the authorization of the district superintendent, governing authority of a community school, or nonpublic school administrator.

QUESTION: What happens when a student transfers into the district after the March 30 deadline?

ANSWER: The district superintendent, governing authority of a community school, or nonpublic school administrator has the authority to allow students, on an individual basis, to

participate in the program after the March 30 deadline. Foreign exchange students may participate under the same provisions.

QUESTION: After being informed of the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, who shall sign off--everyone receiving the information, or only those wishing to participate?

ANSWER: All eight through eleventh grade students and their parents must be notified of the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program and the options available by March annually. Only those students who indicate, by March 30th, that they are interested in participating are required to receive the counseling services. Students and parents interested in participating must sign a locally developed form indicating that counseling services were provided and the potential risks and consequences of participation are understood and accepted.

QUESTION: Is it possible for a student to take college classes in the summer and receive high school credit for those classes?

ANSWER: Yes. R.C. 3313.613 deals with high school credit for post-secondary institution classes taken outside of school hours. H.B. 282 established that high school credit shall be awarded for a course successfully completed outside of regular school hours by a student at an accredited post-secondary institution. Such courses may be either free of charge or paid for by the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student. Courses taken pursuant to this section of the law are not paid for by the State through the PSEOP program. High school credit awarded for a course successfully completed under this section shall count toward the graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the school district. If the school district offers a comparable course, comparable credit shall be awarded. If no comparable course is offered, the district board shall grant the appropriate number of credits in a similar subject area.

QUESTION: May a community school student take a college level class during the summer and have the cost of the course covered through PSOEP?

ANSWER: The answer to this question potentially is yes, but it depends on the definition of the school calendar of the community school, since summer break may vary from school to school and from high school to college. A student could attend college classes on a full-time basis during that period of time if the school the student is enrolled in is in regular session. Special programs or remedial summer classes do not apply – the school must be in session for all students. According to law, a school calendar can start and end any time between July 1 and June 30. The school calendar of a community school does not have to coincide with the school calendar of the traditional public school that is providing funding to the community school. If the school calendar year of a particular community school begins sometime during the months of July or August, it would be appropriate for a community school student to attend a college class as part of PSEOP, as long as the student had declared his intent to participate in the program by the previous March 30. If the March 30

deadline was not met, the governing authority of the community school could approve an exception to the policy and allow participation. All of the normal requirements and expectations associated with PSEOP would have to be met. The cost of the class would be calculated in the normal way and the community school would be responsible for the payment to the college. The cost to the traditional public school would be the same as it would be if the student had attended the community school in the summer. There should not be a payment for more than 1 FTE for the student for the school year.

QUESTION: May a traditional public school student enroll in a community school during its summer term and participate in PSEOP by taking a college class during the summer?

ANSWER: The answer to this question is similar to the one above. A student would only have to do this if the traditional public school did not hold regular sessions in the summer. If the school was in session year round, for example, the student could participate in PSEOP during the summer without having to enroll in a community school. This student would be required to have met the March 30 deadline, but could have a waiver approved by the governing authority of the community school and be eligible to participate. All the normal requirements and expectations associated with PSEOP would have to be met.

QUESTION: Can a student enrolled in a traditional public school or community school that is in session 12 months out of the year participate in PSEOP in the summer?

ANSWER: Yes. If a school is in session, then a student may participate in PSEOP and have the class covered, as long as all of the other requirements are met. Enrollment in the school during this period of time must be considered part of the student's normal enrollment for the year so that there is no double dipping for funding.

QUESTION: How does R.C. 3313.63 impact the PSEOP?

ANSWER: It is not a part of the Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program, but it offers a hybrid alternative to Option "A" and "B". This statute is more recent than the PSEOP statutes and offers an opportunity for the student to obtain high school and college credit for the classes that are taken. However, the State would not be paying for the course(s), because the cost would be the responsibility of the student or parent, if funding was not provided in some other fashion such as through a grant. It offers a way for a student to take college courses for high school credit outside of regular hours, but it does not impact or change Option "A" or Option "B" in PSEOP.

QUESTION: Can a local board of education grant the student high school credit for completing a college course if the student is not under the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program?

ANSWER: Yes. Many school districts currently participate in concurrent enrollment and early entrance programs with Ohio colleges and universities. None of these programs is voided by the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

QUESTION: If the high school offers a course in its master schedule and the student wishes to take that same course, e.g., chemistry or physics, in college for high school credit through the PSEOP program, can the student be required to take the high school course?

ANSWER: No. Students who meet the eligibility requirements of the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program may not be prevented by school officials from enrolling in college courses for high school graduation credit. However, counseling services must include discussing with students and their parents the risks and consequences associated with participating in the program. Public schools may not place additional requirements for courses on students participating in PSEOP. A nonpublic school may develop its own unique policies and requirements for graduation from their school.

QUESTION: If senior English offered at the high school is actually more advanced than a college freshman English course, must credit be awarded by the high school for the college course?

ANSWER: Yes. Appropriate high school graduation credit must be awarded for successfully completed college courses under Option “B” to meet the district’s total units of credit required for graduation. If the course is comparable to one required for graduation, appropriate credit must be awarded toward meeting that subject requirement as well as the total unit requirement. If the course is not comparable, the district must determine whether it is similar enough to a subject area requirement to be accepted as such, or whether it will be counted only as meeting the total unit requirement. Disputes between students and their school districts may be appealed by the student to the State Board of Education.

QUESTION: If a school has block scheduling, how many periods does the school use for calculating the number of Carnegie units a student can take?

ANSWER: Schools on a block schedule should use the equivalent of an eight period day.

QUESTION: If a student takes a course at a technical college, and the high school has nothing even similar in its curriculum, what would happen?

ANSWER: There are three levels of consideration for the awarding of high school graduation credit earned through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program. First, all college courses successfully completed under Option “B” must be awarded high school graduation credit to meet the district’s total units of credit required for graduation. Second, if the course is comparable to one required for graduation, appropriate credit must be awarded toward meeting that subject requirement as well as the total unit requirement. Third, if the course is not comparable, the district must determine whether it is similar enough to a subject area requirement to be accepted as such, or whether it will be counted only as meeting the total unit requirement. Disputes between students and their school districts may be appealed by the student to the State Board of Education.

QUESTION: What formula or procedures are used to determine the amount of time students must attend the high school if they are attending the college part-time?

ANSWER: Generally, this should be determined according to school policy and administrative procedures. Students will certainly be expected to be in attendance for courses scheduled at the high school. Many districts and nonpublic schools require students to be enrolled for a minimum number of units each term/year. Such requirements do not have to be waived for students participating part-time in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program. This would include home schooled students who enroll part-time in the public school for the sole purpose of participating in the Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

QUESTION: Who pays the post-secondary costs of a public student attending a post-secondary institution?

ANSWER: Under Option "A", the student receives college credit only and is responsible for all costs.

Under Option "B", the student receives both high school and college credit with the public school district being responsible for the costs.

QUESTION: Under the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, if a student completes a class, but receives a failing grade, who pays for the class?

ANSWER: Students enrolled in college courses for high school graduation credit will have all tuition, fees, textbooks and materials directly associated with the course(s) paid for by the Ohio Department of Education from school district funds. The costs associated with taking a college course through PSEOP will even be paid for students who complete courses, but receive failing grades.

QUESTION: Under the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, if a student who selects Option "B" fails to complete a class, who pays for the class?

ANSWER: Public school districts have the option, through formal board action, to permit such costs to default to the student/parent if a participating student fails to complete a course for reasons other than those generally accepted by the district. It will be the district's responsibility in such cases to recover the appropriate expenditures.

Nonpublic schools may also attempt to bill their students who fail to complete a course for reasons other than those generally accepted by the district. Any dollars recovered by the nonpublic school must be returned to the state. Fees charged may not exceed the dollar amount as determined by the Ohio Department of Education formula.

QUESTION: Who is responsible for intervention if the student fails a college course being taken for high school and college credit?

ANSWER: Students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, together with their parents, must be aware of and understand the social and academic consequences of participation. Any necessary intervention may be, but is not required to be, provided by the student's resident school district, community school, or nonpublic school.

QUESTION: If a student moves from one district to another during the school year, which district is responsible for payment to the college?

ANSWER: When a student moves, the district in which the custodial parent and student resided at the time the school year started is responsible for payment for the remainder of the costs for that quarter or semester. If the student is a graduating senior, the original district of residence would be responsible for the costs for the remainder of the year if the student wishes to graduate with his/her class at that school. If the student is not a graduating senior, continued participation in PSEOP for the balance of the year of transfer must be approved by the new district of residence. The student must then receive counseling in the new district and declare intent to participate in the PSEOP program by March 30 for the following year.

QUESTION: If a student attends a school district through Open Enrollment and then participates in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option "B" Program, which district is responsible for payment?

ANSWER: The educating district is responsible for all Option "B" Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program costs because it receives the state funding for the student.

QUESTION: Who will pay the difference if the cost of the college course(s) is more than the allocated formula amount as specified in law?

ANSWER: No one. Colleges and universities electing to participate in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program understand and accept the fact that reimbursement for students electing Option "B" will be fixed and, in some cases, may not cover all cost directly associated with courses taken.

QUESTION: If a student chooses to attend a college as a full-time student far away from home, who pays for room and board?

ANSWER: The student/parent is responsible for the costs of room and board. Only the costs of tuition, textbooks, materials and fees directly related to the course may be funded through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program. In some cases, depending on financial need,

transportation costs may be reimbursed; but room and board, if necessary, are the responsibility of the student/parent.

QUESTION: Could a student somehow arrange to get more college courses paid for than what was originally intended by participating in this program?

ANSWER: No. Students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program are limited to a maximum of four academic years. No student may earn more than the total number of Carnegie Units that might be earned using every period available during the school day (excluding the standard lunch period). Students participating at the beginning of the ninth grade may do so for four full years; those who participate at the beginning of the twelfth grade may do so for one full year. Eligibility to participate may be carried over from one year to the next.

QUESTION: Who owns the textbooks that are provided by the post-secondary institution for students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option "B" Program?

ANSWER: The books belong to the post-secondary institution. If the post-secondary institution does not choose to keep them, the public school can claim them. If the public school does not want them, the student can claim them.

QUESTION: How much college credit may be earned by a student who is taking high school courses during every available period during one semester, but has one study hall during the second semester?

ANSWER: Anytime a student is enrolled in high school courses for credit during every available period, that student may not participate in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program during that term. This is true whether or not the student is earning the maximum number of Carnegie Units possible. If, however, during the course of the year, the student is scheduled for credit courses in fewer than every available period, that student may participate in the PSEOP program and earn college credit equal to the difference between what the student will earn in high school and the maximum credit that is possible to earn in high school during one academic year.

QUESTION: Can a student take college courses pass/fail for high school credit?

ANSWER: Yes. Whether and the manner in which grades earned by the students enrolled in college courses for high school graduation credit impact the student's high school grade point average is left to the home school district to determine. The calculation of the GPA for students is left to the local district.

QUESTION: What if a local district requires a letter grade for all courses?

ANSWER: The local district will need to develop a policy that deals with how it will credit college courses taken pass/fail with a letter grade. An explanation of this policy should be provided as part of the counseling information given to the students and parents.

QUESTION: Under the Post-Secondary Enrollment Option “B” Program, is distance learning or correspondence acceptable?

ANSWER: Yes, as long as they are provided by an Ohio post-secondary institution that is recognized by the Ohio Board of Regents.

QUESTION: Do courses taken as part of the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program count toward the honors diploma?

ANSWER: Yes. Honors diploma rules specifically allow for Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program courses to count toward honors diploma credit.

Source: Criteria for Diploma with Honors
Center for Curriculum and Assessment

QUESTION: When a student is 18, by law the college must require the student to sign a release form to release his/her grades. If the student doesn't wish the grades to be sent back to the high school, how will the high school receive a record of the student's grades?

ANSWER: Students over the age of 18 who wish to participate in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program will have their grades sent to appropriate school authorities as a condition of acceptance.

QUESTION: How does the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program work with competency-based education and proficiency testing requirements and diplomas? How can we be sure students are learning what they need to know for these tests when taking college courses?

ANSWER: No high school graduation requirements that involve competency based education and proficiency testing may be waived as a result of participation in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program. Participating students are subject to the same home school district requirements, such as proficiency tests, as are all other students.

Students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, together with their parents, must be made aware of and understand the social and academic consequences of participation in PSEOP.

QUESTION: What specifically will be the transportation obligation of the school district?

ANSWER: The responsibility of the district for transportation costs is specified in the synopsis of Rule 8. In general, transportation costs may be provided only on the basis of financial need.

QUESTION: What are the legal ramifications of requiring a student who has not studied the curriculum upon which the achievement test is based to take the test?

ANSWER: R.C. 3301.0710 and 3301.0711 established a state wide system of student achievement tests. These sections are clear that enrolled students must take these tests at the grades indicated in these sections. In fact, R.C. 3317.03(E) (3) forbids the state from counting students (for subsidy purposes) who did not take the required tests during the preceding year, unless students were excused from taking the test. Students who are excused from taking the test(s) must take the test within nine days of the test date (R.C. 3301.0711 (C) (2)).

Clearly, the expectation is that students are to take the required state achievement tests. Finally, local boards of education have broad powers under R.C. 3313.47 to exercise management and control of their schools. A series of court decisions has upheld school boards' authority to implement and enforce reasonable policies related to management and control of the boards' schools. If it is the policy of the local board to require enrolled students to take state achievement tests, that is certainly within its authority. In fact, it is arguably the only legal policy that a local board could have on this matter.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

QUESTION: Can a vocational student attend college full-time during the last two years of high school and still qualify for a vocational certificate?

ANSWER: If credit earned in a college course is comparable to one required for graduation, appropriate credit must be awarded toward meeting that subject requirement as well as the total unit requirement. If the course is not comparable, the district must determine whether it is similar enough to a subject area requirement to be accepted as such, or whether it will be counted only as meeting the total unit requirement. If there are additional requirements for graduation and/or specific diplomas or certificates, which are not met through participation in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program, it is the responsibility of the student to meet such requirements. This requirement should be discussed in the PSEOP counseling information that is shared with students and parents.

QUESTION: If a vocational student enrolls in a college course and then drops out after October 1, how will the payment to the post-secondary institution be handled?

ANSWER: The appropriate costs for participating students enrolled in joint vocational schools will be shared by the home school district and the joint vocational school. The procedures to be applied are included in the synopsis of Rule 7. The rule requires that the home school district, nonpublic school, or community school confirm with the Ohio Department of Education, the joint vocational school, and with each college in which a student from the home school district, non-public school or community school enrolls, the percentage of full-time equivalence the student represents for the district or nonpublic school, the joint vocational school, or community school and the college.

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

QUESTION: Are post-secondary institutions required by law to participate in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program?

ANSWER: A state supported, private, or proprietary institution is not required to participate in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program.

QUESTION: May a student attend college on other premises outside the actual college campus?

ANSWER: The program is intended to allow high school students to experience college work/life realistically. This suggests that the most appropriate experiences and resources are available on college/university campuses. However, there is no specific prohibition against such experiences being located in other settings or through other means, provided the program is available to all other eligible students enrolled at that college.

QUESTION: Can a college admit only juniors and seniors into this program?

ANSWER: No. If the post-secondary institution elects to participate in the program, it must be open to all eligible students in grades nine through twelve. Colleges may establish their own admissions standards, but they may not totally exclude any group.

QUESTION: Will colleges send progress and attendance reports to the high school on a periodic basis?

ANSWER: There is no requirement that participating colleges and universities send progress reports to school district officials. They may, of course, choose to do so if they desire. Neither are they required to send attendance reports unless students formally drop courses and/or discontinue attending classes. In such cases, colleges and universities are required to report such action to school officials in a timely manner, not to exceed fourteen days.

QUESTION: Will colleges/universities send final grades from courses taken to the high schools at the end of each term?

ANSWER: Yes. Colleges and universities participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program are required to report student grades to all appropriate parties, including the home school district, community school or nonpublic school.

QUESTION: May a high school student participate in any college activities such as sports, music, or drama?

ANSWER: In general, the answer is no. Students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program continue to be high school students. While some college activities may directly relate to specific courses taken by these students (e.g., art, music, drama activities), and might be acceptable for participation, most such activities (e.g. varsity sports, marching band, intramurals) could be inappropriate. Guidance should be sought by students and parents from participating colleges on an individual basis.

QUESTION: Does the high school have to accept college courses in religion?

ANSWER: Students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program may enroll exclusively in nonsectarian courses. Courses such as The History of Religion, and Comparative Religions, are not generally sectarian in nature and should be awarded high school graduation credit upon successful completion. School district policy and administrative procedures, together with sound professional practice and wisdom, should be relied upon when making such decisions.

QUESTION: Will the universities place any controls on the purchase of books, lab fees, and other materials?

ANSWER: Participating colleges and universities are required to provide students electing Option “B” with the textbooks and materials directly associated with course(s). Reimbursement to the post-secondary institution for tuition, books, materials and fees will be made according to established procedures (see the synopsis of Rule 8).

QUESTION: Are scholarships considered financial aid?

ANSWER: Students participating in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program under Option “B” may not receive additional financial support. R.C. 3365.08 (B) states that students participating in PSEOP Option "B" shall not receive direct financial aid through any state or federal program. This would not prohibit other types of grants or scholarships.

NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

QUESTION: If a nonpublic school can establish a policy that certain classes have to be taken at the school, does a public school have the same right to establish a similar policy before it approves participation by a student in PSEOP?

ANSWER: A public school does not have the right to establish such a policy if all of the requirements for graduation can be satisfied by taking classes at a college through the PSEOP program. The public school student has the right to take a full-time load at the college without the public school being able to require attendance at any classes at the school.

QUESTION: Does a school board of a nonpublic school have the right to approve a policy that requires a student to take a minimum number of specific classes in its school in order to participate in PSEOP?

ANSWER: A nonpublic school can establish any policy it wishes. It can even decide to elect not to participate in the PSEOP. An example of this would be a Catholic school that implements a policy requiring students enrolled in its school to complete religious classes at the school in order to graduate, even if the student is taking a full load of classes at a college through PSEOP. This would be allowable. Even if a nonpublic school student was taking the equivalent of a full-time load at the college through PSEOP, the nonpublic school could still require attendance in specific classes at the school as a part of its graduation requirements. A nonpublic may operate differently than a public school.

QUESTION: When is a nonpublic school required to notify the Ohio Department of Education of its intent to participate in the PSEOP?

ANSWER: According to deadlines established for nonpublic school participation in PSEOP, a nonpublic school must notify the Ohio Department of Education by **April 1** of the previous school year of its intent to participate in the PSEOP. R.C. 3365.02 states that nonpublic school students may participate in the PSEOP if the chief administrator of such school notifies ODE of the school's intention to allow its students to participate by April 1 prior to the school year in which the school's students will participate. Failure to comply with the deadline will prevent the students from participating until the following year.

In addition non-chartered, non-tax supported schools operated under Section 3301-35-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code must annually certify in a report to the parents of its pupils that the school meets Ohio minimum standards for schools of its type, and a copy of the report must be filed with the Ohio Department of Education by September 30 of each year. A school that does not comply with the notification requirements will not be listed as a non-chartered, non-tax supported school by the Ohio Department of Education. Therefore, in order for the students to be eligible to apply for the 2005-06 PSEOP, the non-chartered non-tax supported school they attend must have submitted both the September 30, 2004, and April 1, 2005, notifications to ODE.

HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS

QUESTION: Is a home schooled student eligible to participate in the PSEOP?

ANSWER: A home schooled student is not eligible to participate in the PSEOP as a home schooled student, but does have alternative ways to participate in the program. If a traditional public school has a policy that offers an option of part-time enrollment, the home schooled student could enroll as a part-time student and participate in PSEOP up to that portion of time.

QUESTION: What options are available to a home schooled student who wishes to participate in the PSEOP?

ANSWER: A home schooled student must utilize one of the options below to participate in the PSEOP, but then would no longer be considered to be a home schooled student.

- 1) Enroll in a traditional public school and then participate in the program. The student's participation then would be subject to the same requirements, including counseling, notification deadlines, and testing, as any other student in the school.
- 2) Enroll in a community school and be subject to all of the same requirements placed on the students in that school.
- 3) Enroll in a chartered or nonchartered nonpublic school and be subject to all of the same requirements placed on the students in that school.

QUESTION: May a traditional public school or community school require a home schooled student, who wishes to enroll in the school for the sole reason of making the student eligible to participate in the PSEOP, to take classes at the school as part of the requirements for enrollment?

ANSWER: The answer depends upon whether the school has a written policy requiring full-time enrollment at the school or not. If no written policy is in place, or there are other students attending the school on a part-time basis, then no requirements can be placed on the student. The student may enroll in the school and register for part-time or full-time enrollment at the postsecondary institution based on the student's status at the high school. All students in the school, including those who transfer in during the year, must be treated the same. The home schooled student may be admitted, but may not be allowed to participate in PSEOP in the year in which the student transfers into the school, if the student did not receive the required counseling and a waiver is not approved by the district superintendent or school governing body. The student would have to meet the March 30 of the previous school year deadline to declare an intention to participate in PSEOP.

If the school has a policy in place that requires a minimum number of classes be taken by every student during the school year, and the home schooled student who transfers into the

school enrolls at the college for less than a full-time load, the school would have the right to require the additional number of courses to bring the course load up to full-time be taken at the school. A parent of a home schooled student who finds them self in this situation could request a waiver to provide those classes through home schooling, but the waiver does not have to be approved.

If a student is participating fulltime in the PSEOP, a traditional public school or community school may not require the student to take any classes at the school because the student cannot be required to attend more than fulltime. Courses should be available at the college that would allow the student to meet all of the necessary requirements for graduation. A nonpublic school may place additional requirements on the student for graduation, such as religion classes, which cannot be taken or funded through the PSEOP program.

QUESTION: If a home schooled student enrolls in a public school and is participating in the Post Secondary Enrollment Options Program, can the cost of a proficiency exam administered by the college to grant credit for a class, as well as the cost of the credit hours generated for the class, be paid for as part of the PSEOP?

ANSWER: “The program is intended to provide expanded opportunities for appropriately qualified high school students to experience coursework at the college or university level. Any high school student admitted to a course by an institution of higher education will be expected and required to perform at the same level as the institution’s regular students.” This language indicates that the student must actually be admitted to the class, attend class, and do the work required in the class. As a result, neither the cost of a proficiency exam, nor the cost of the college course the student receives credit for by passing the exam, could be appropriately paid for as part of the program.

QUESTION: If home schooled students enroll in a public school for the purpose of participating in the PSEOP, are they required to take the achievement test administered by the public school?

ANSWER: Any student of a public or nonpublic school is subject to all the requirements of every student in the school. R.C. 3301.0710 and 3301.0711 established a state wide system of student achievement tests. These sections are clear that enrolled students must take these tests at the grades indicated in these sections. R.C. 3317.03(E)(3) forbids the state from counting students (for subsidy purposes) who did not take required tests the preceding year, unless students were excused from taking the tests. Students who are excused from taking the test(s) must take the test within nine days of the test date (R.C. 3301.0711 (C) (2)).

The expectation is that students are to take the required state achievement tests. Local boards of education have broad powers, under R.C. 3313.47, to exercise “management and control” of their schools. A series of court decisions has upheld school boards’ authority to implement and enforce reasonable policies related to management and control of the boards’ schools. Although the achievement tests are required by state law, a local school

board could create a policy requiring all of its students to participate in the achievement tests.