August 19, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Thomas R. Bice  
State Superintendent of Education

RE: Dual Enrollment for College and Career Readiness

PLAN 2020 includes a number of key measures that will be used to gauge the annual progress of education in Alabama through 2020. One of the key measures is the College and Career Readiness of our graduates. Students in Alabama will be classified as College and Career Ready if they achieve any of the five benchmarks listed below:

- Benchmark score on any section of the ACT test.
- Qualifying score on an AP or IB exam.
- Approved transcripted college or postsecondary credit while in high school.
- Benchmark level on the ACT WorkKeys.
- Approved industry credential.

From a logistics standpoint, the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) will record student achievement of ACT benchmarks, qualifying scores on an AP or IB exam, and ACT WorkKeys. However, local education agencies will be responsible for notating in InNow when a student receives an industry approved credential, or an approved transcripted college or postsecondary credit while in high school (dual enrollment).

Attached to this memorandum is a screen shot of the "Custom" tab in InNow that contains the "College-and Career-Ready Standards (CCRS)" check boxes. Further guidance regarding the "Career Tech Credential Attainment" box will be provided after the STI winter release. This means only the "College Credit Attainment" box requires your attention at this time. It is imperative that the ALSDE receive accurate numbers regarding the number of students that receive a dual enrollment credit. For that reason, I am attaching the definition of dual enrollment taken from the Alabama Administrative Code that will be utilized for College and Career Readiness purposes. Please ensure that all personnel tasked with determining or entering dual enrollment credit are familiar with the attached definition.

TRB:TT:RH

Attachments

cc: K-12 Principals

FY14-3070
(10) Dual Enrollment - Postsecondary Institutions. Local boards of education may establish dual enrollment programs allowing certain high school students to enroll in postsecondary institutions in order to dually earn credits for a high school diploma and/or a postsecondary degree at both the high school and participating postsecondary levels. The dual enrollment program is open to all students meeting the following requirements:

(a) Eligible Students. Students participating in a dual enrollment program shall pay normal tuition as required by the postsecondary institution and shall meet the following requirements:

1. Have a "B" average, as defined by local board of education policy, in completed high school courses;
2. Have written approval of the student's principal and superintendent; and
3. Be in Grade 10, 11, or 12 or have an exception granted by the participating postsecondary institution upon the recommendation of the student's principal and superintendent and in accordance with AAC Rule 290-8-9-.17 regarding gifted and talented students.

4. Students enrolled in Grade 10, 11, or 12 who do not have a "B" average in completed high school courses may be deemed eligible to participate in dual enrollment courses pending demonstrated ability to benefit as documented by successful completion and placement identification on assessments approved by the Department of Postsecondary Education. Students eligible under this section will be restricted to pursuing career/technical and health-related courses. Students enrolled under this provision must have earned a "B" average in high school courses related to the occupational/technical studies, if applicable, which the student intends to pursue at the postsecondary level and have maintained an overall grade point average of 2.50. Students enrolled under this provision must have written approval of the students' principal and superintendent.

(b) Course offerings.

1. Courses shall be postsecondary/college level.

Postsecondary/college level remedial courses shall not meet the requirements of this program.

2. Students enrolled in courses offered during the normal high school day on or off the high school campus shall have prior permission of
the students' principal, superintendent, and the participating postsecondary institution president.

3. Local boards of education shall adopt policies addressing parental permission and travel for courses offered off the high school campus during the normal school day.

(c) Credits. Ten quarter/six semester credit hours at the postsecondary level shall equal one credit at the high school level in the same or related subject. Partial credit agreements shall be developed between the local board of education and participating postsecondary institutions.

(d) Articulation. Four year colleges/universities are encouraged to participate in this program utilizing the same guidelines.