

Section 8-18.6. Agreement for postsecondary degree; counseling services for middle school students; dual enrollment courses encouraged subject to certain conditions. —

A. The School Board will enter into an agreement for postsecondary degree attainment with a community college in the Commonwealth specifying the options for students to complete an associate's degree or a one-year Uniform Certificate of General Studies from the community college concurrent with a high school diploma. The agreement will specify the credit available for dual enrollment courses and Advanced Placement courses with qualifying exam scores of three or higher.

B. The School Board may enter into agreements for postsecondary credential, certification or license attainment with community colleges or other public institutions of higher education or educational institutions established pursuant to Title 23.1 of the Code of Virginia that offer a career and technical educational curriculum. Such agreements shall specify (i) the options for students to take courses as part of the career and technical education curriculum that lead to an industry-recognized credential, certification or licenses concurrent with a high school diploma and (ii) the credentials, certifications or licenses available for such courses.

C. Beginning in the middle school years, students will be counseled on opportunities for beginning postsecondary education and opportunities for obtaining industry certifications, occupational competency credentials, or professional licenses in a career and technical education field prior to high school graduation. Such opportunities include access to at least three Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or Cambridge courses or three college-level courses for degree credit. Students taking advantage of such opportunities are not denied participation in school activities for which they are otherwise eligible.

D. Wherever possible, students will be encouraged and afforded opportunities to take college courses simultaneously for high school graduation and college degree credit (dual enrollment), under the following conditions:

- (i) Written approval of the high school principal prior to participation in dual enrollment must be obtained.
- (ii) The college must accept the student for admission to the course ~~or courses~~.
- (iii) The course ~~or courses~~ must be given by the college for degree credits (no remedial courses will be accepted).
- (iv) Students participating in courses offered by an institution of higher education are permitted to exceed a full course load in order to participate in courses that lead to a degree, certificate, or credential at such institution.

(Adopted April 10, 2013; Ordinance Number 12/13-77; Effective Date: July 1, 2013; Revised December 14, 2017; Ordinance Number 17/18-29; Effective: December 14, 2017; Revised December 13, 2018; Ordinance Number 18/19-42; Effective: December 13, 2018)

Legal Authority – Virginia Code §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:1. (1950), as amended; and 8 VAC 20- 131-140.