

POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

It is the intent of the RSU 13 School Board to encourage students to enroll in college courses while enrolled in high school. The Principal will monitor, on a monthly basis, the progress of students enrolled in post-secondary courses. Under certain circumstances a portion of the cost of tuition is paid by the state.

STATE FUNDED POST SECONDARY ENROLLMENT

1. Eligible Institutions

- A. Students may take courses at eligible post-secondary institutions within Maine, which include the University of Maine System, the Vocational Technical College System and Maine Maritime Academy.
- B. RSU 13 may allow students to take courses at private colleges or other institutions, but the school unit cannot include such costs as allowable program costs for state funding.

2. Student Eligibility Requirements

A student in grade 11 or 12 may take no more than one course per semester and no more than two courses per academic year. To be eligible for state funding, the student must meet the following criteria prior to enrolling in a post-secondary course:

- A. Have a minimum of a “B” average in his/her courses overall;
- B. Meet the course admission standards of the eligible institution;
- C. Provide evidence of parent/guardian approval for taking the course; and
- D. Obtain approval from the principal and guidance counselor.

3. Exceptions to Eligibility Requirements

A student enrolled in grade 11 or 12 who does not meet the “B” average in his/her courses overall is eligible to take a post-secondary course provided that he/she:

- A. Has been assessed and received a recommendation to take the course from the school administration; and
- B. Has been approved for participant in the course by the eligible institution.

4. Awarding of Credits

The eligible institution shall grant full credit to any student who successfully completes a course. Prior to enrollment the school shall specify the amount of high school graduation credit to be received. Credit for a course taken under this policy shall be awarded under the following conditions:

- A. The course must meet for a minimum of one semester;
- B. The student must earn a passing grade in the course; and
- C. Attendance must satisfy the teacher’s requirements.

5. Financial Assistance

- A. Under Maine law, the Maine Department of Education will pay 50% of in-state tuition for up to 3 credit hours for a student enrolled in such coursework, if the eligible institution requires tuition payment.
- B. The student and parent/guardian are responsible for paying for all textbooks, course fees, and transportation costs. If the student qualifies for free or reduced lunch, RSU 13 may cover these costs.

6. RSU 13 Reporting Requirements

The Superintendent shall ensure that information concerning post-secondary enrollment options is made available to parents and students. The Superintendent shall report annually to the Board the number of students enrolled at post-secondary institutions and the courses taken.

LOCALLY FUNDED POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT

RSU 13 School Board will pay for enrollment in post-secondary courses in cases not funded by the state only if all of the following conditions are met:

1. The course is not offered in a high school operated by RSU 13.
2. The enrollment has prior approval by the Principal.
3. Enrollment in the proposed college course will not hinder the student meeting graduation requirements.
4. The student has an overall grade point average of B or better.
5. Students enrolled in grade 11 or grade 12 are eligible; students in grade 10 are only eligible if designated as Gifted and Talented.
6. RSU 13 will pay any accredited college in the United States up to half of the credit hour cost of a University of Maine undergraduate course. For students eligible for Free or Reduced Lunch, RSU 13 will pay up to the credit hour cost of a University of Maine undergraduate course.
7. Funding under this section is subject to availability of funds in the RSU 13 budget, but in no case will exceed one course a semester or two courses a year.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRS §4771-4775

Approved: 1/7/10