

## Annual Expanded Options Program Notification

Dear MHS Families,

We are sending you this notice regarding potential opportunities under the Expanded Options Program (EOP). Your child may qualify as an eligible student to participate in EOP if your child meets the criteria below and has not already graduated from a high school. If your child has completed course requirements for graduation but has not yet received a diploma, your child may still be eligible to participate in EOP.

### Definitions

You may be permitted to participate if you are an eligible student and apply to an eligible post-secondary institution for an eligible post-secondary course. An eligible student means a student enrolled in a public school who:

1. Is sixteen years or older at the time of enrollment in a course under the Expanded Options Program.
2. Is in grade 11 or 12 or has not yet completed the required credits for grade 11 or 12, but the district has allowed the student to participate in the program.
3. Has developed an educational learning plan.
4. Has not successfully completed requirements for a high school diploma.
5. Is not a foreign exchange student.

An eligible post-secondary institution means:

1. A community college
2. A state institution of higher education in the Oregon University System
3. The Oregon Health and Sciences University

An eligible post-secondary course means:

1. Any nonsectarian course or program offered through an eligible post-secondary institution if the course or program may lead to high school completion, a certificate, professional certification, associate degree or baccalaureate degree.
2. It includes academic and professional technical courses and distance education courses.
3. It does not include a duplicate course, which is defined as a course with a scope that is identical to the scope of another course.

### Purpose

The purpose of this program is to:

1. Create a seamless education system for students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 to:
  - a. Have additional options to continue or complete their education
  - b. Earn concurrent high school and college credits
  - c. Gain early entrance into post-secondary education
2. Promote and support existing acceleration college credits programs, and support the development of new programs that are unique to a community's secondary and postsecondary relationships and resources.
3. Allow eligible students who participate in the Expanded Options Program to enroll full-time or part-time in an eligible post-secondary institution.

4. Provide public funding to the eligible post-secondary institutions for education services to eligible students to offset the cost of tuition, fees, textbooks, equipment and materials for students who participate in the Expanded Options Program.

## **Graduation and Course Credit**

Participating in EOP will not adversely affect your child's ability to graduate because credit received from successfully completing an eligible post-secondary course may be applied towards high school graduation requirements. If, however, your child does not receive a passing grade in the eligible post-secondary course, your student may not receive credit towards high school graduation. Failure to successfully complete an eligible post-secondary course may affect your child's ability to remain in or re-enroll in EOP.

## **Selection**

Enrollment in EOP may be limited because of caps on total credit hours that will be awarded by the high school. If qualified applications to EOP exceed space limitations, the district will conduct a lottery to fill slots and will give priority to eligible students in grade 12.

When selecting students, the high school will give priority to at-risk student. The definition of an at-risk student is a student who either qualifies for a free or reduced lunch program, and meets state or federal thresholds for poverty that entitles the student for services under provisions of the Every Student Succeeds Act.

## **Enrollment and Participation**

EOP is also dependent on your child's acceptance by an eligible post-secondary institution to take an eligible post-secondary course. Your student will not be eligible for state financial aid, your child will have all cost paid for by the district in the same manner as if your child was attending the public high school. The district will pay for textbooks, fees, equipment or materials, and any other cost associate with enrollment. You will be responsible for providing transportation to the eligible post-secondary institution. If your child receives special education services, the district will continue to provide special education services under an IEP.

If your child intends to enroll in a course that is already offered by the district, i.e., a duplicate course, your child will not be eligible to participate in EOP. A duplicate course is one that is similar in content and scope to another course already offered by or through the district. If you disagree with the district's assessment that a course is a duplicate course as determined by the district, you may appeal the decision under the procedures outlined below.

## **Contested Decisions/Appeal**

If you disagree with the district's determination that a course is a duplicate course, you may appeal first to the superintendent. Your appeal must be in writing and contain at a minimum the following information: (1) name of student; (2) name of post-secondary course; (3) detailed description of post-secondary course; (4) name of duplicate course offered by high school; (5) detailed description of duplicate course offered by high school; and (6) reasons why you believe course is not a duplicate. You must initiate your appeal within 5 days of receiving notification that the post-secondary course is a duplicate. The superintendent will issue a written decision within 10 days.

If you are dissatisfied with the superintendent's decision, you may appeal next to the school district board. Your appeal must be in writing. You must initiate your appeal within 10 days of receiving the superintendent's determination that the post-secondary course is a duplicate. The board will issue a written decision within 20 days.

If you are dissatisfied with the board's decision, you may appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee after exhausting local procedures or after 45 days from filing a written complaint with the school district, whichever occurs first. If you appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee, you must comply with all requirements under OAR 581-022-1940

### **Student Notification to District**

If you have questions regarding the Expanded Options Program please contact Mr. Berzinski at the contact information listed below. Families must provide written notice to the school district before **May 15th** indicating intent to enroll in an eligible post-secondary course during the following school year.

Sincerely,

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Molalla High School  
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