



STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JASON E. GLASS, DIRECTOR

DATE: August 16, 2012
TO: Public School District Superintendents
Community College Presidents
FROM: Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Director
RE: Changes to Senior Year Plus Requirements

With the passage of the Ed Reform bill (Senate File 2284) and changes to the Iowa Assessments, there are notable changes to Senior Year Plus (SYP) student eligibility requirements and requirements related to Project Lead the Way courses delivered through district-to-community college sharing agreements.

Student Proficiency Requirements and CTE Courses

The Education Reform Bill signed by Governor Branstad included changes to SYP student eligibility requirements. Students planning to enroll in career and technical education (CTE) courses delivered via district-to-community college sharing agreements eligible for supplementary weighting (e.g., concurrent enrollment) are now exempt from Iowa Code section 261E.3(1)"e" – the requirement that students demonstrate proficiency on the Iowa Assessments in reading, math, and science. Students may be required to complete and pass an initial assessment administered by the community college to determine their readiness to enroll in college-level CTE coursework. With the passage of the bill, students do not need to demonstrate proficiency in reading, math, and science to concurrently enroll in career and technical courses, but they must continue to demonstrate proficiency to be eligible to enroll in other concurrent enrollment courses. All students must continue to meet any expectations set by the community college (e.g., placement exam cut scores, prerequisites) to be eligible for concurrent enrollment or Postsecondary

Enrollment Options (PSEO). Additionally, to be eligible to enroll in CTE courses via PSEO, students must meet the reading, math, and science proficiency requirement.

The New Iowa Assessments and Student Proficiency Requirements

Iowa Testing Programs created new forms of the Iowa Assessments (previously the Iowa Tests of Educational Development [ITED] and Iowa Tests of Basic Skills [ITBS]) for the 2011-12 school year. These new forms have necessitated a reexamination of the norms. This examination resulted in a change in the proficiency requirements for students to be eligible to participate in college credit Senior Year Plus (SYP) programming. Although this information was shared with school districts in regional meetings in the spring and fall of 2011, it was not clearly articulated how this impacts student eligibility for SYP programming. These training materials can be accessed at:

<http://itp.education.uiowa.edu/ia/default.aspx>.

To be eligible to participate, students must demonstrate proficiency in reading, math, and science. Previously, eligibility was primarily determined using the most recent administration of the ITBS or ITED or an alternative measure of proficiency adopted by the school board. For the ITBS/ITED, students had to score at or above the 41st national percentile rank (NPR) in each of the three subject areas.

The 2010 national Iowa Assessment norms are different than previous norms established in 2000. Therefore, the 41st NPR on form E/F (the new forms) does not represent the same level of achievement as the 41st NPR on form A/B (based on the 2000 norms). Starting with the 2011-12 school year, form E is being administered in Iowa school districts and proficiency cut scores for the Iowa Assessments are determined in the Standard Score metric (instead of NPR) specific to grade, content, and time of year (fall, midyear, and spring). They represent the same level of achievement as the previous cut scores.

With the new Iowa Assessments, the minimum National Standard Scores (NSS) valid for the 2011-2012 academic year are as follows:

Grade	Fall	Midyear	Spring
8	Math - 229 Science - 232 Reading - 232	Math - 231 Science - 235 Reading - 236	Math - 236 Science - 238 Reading - 213
9	Math - 243 Science - 243 Reading - 243	Math - 249 Science - 250 Reading - 247	Math - 249 Science - 250 Reading - 249
10	Math - 252 Science - 253 Reading - 252	Math - 257 Science - 258 Reading - 257	Math - 257 Science - 258 Reading - 257
11	Math - 259 Science - 260 Reading - 259	Math - 261 Science - 265 Reading - 262	Math - 263 Science - 265 Reading - 263

Project Lead the Way

The Education Reform Bill also included language impacting Project Lead the Way® (PLTW) offerings delivered through sharing agreements between school districts and community colleges. The change allows these courses to remain eligible for the same supplementary weighting as concurrent enrollment courses. The State Board of Education is expected to adopt administrative rules later this year which include parameters for the program.

Student Proficiency Requirements and PLTW Courses

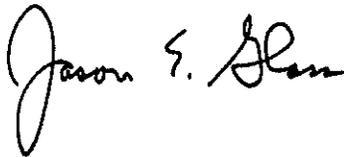
The Education Reform Bill did not change student eligibility requirements related specifically to PLTW courses. Instead, as previously noted, the legislation changed the student eligibility requirements related to college credit career and technical education (CTE) courses delivered through district-to-community college sharing agreements. If a PLTW course is also a career and technical education (CTE) course, the Senior Year

Plus student proficiency requirement exemption is applicable. Currently, the following PLTW pre-engineering courses are considered career-technical and students are not required to demonstrate proficiency on the Iowa Assessments or an alternative measure prior to enrollment.

Course Number	Course Title
EGT400	PLTW - Introduction to Engineering Design
EGT410	PLTW - Principles of Engineering
EGT420	PLTW - Digital Electronics
EGT439	PLTW - Aerospace Engineering
EGT440	PLTW - Biotechnical Engineering
EGT450	PLTW - Computer Integrated Manufacturing
EGT460	PLTW - Civil Engineering and Architecture
EGT470	PLTW - Engineering Design and Development (EDD)

If you have any questions, contact Jeremy Varner, consultant, bureau of Adult, Career, and Community College Education, at jeremy.varner@iowa.gov or 515-419-9988.

Sincerely,



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State Director & Chief Learner
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