

## **Expanded Options Program – Gladstone School District**

### **Description and Definitions**

The Oregon State legislature passed Senate Bill 300 in July of 2005, which was adopted by the State Board of Education on December 2, 2005. The bill requires school districts to notify students and their parents of the newly adopted Expanded Options Program. This program offers additional opportunities for dropouts and At-Risk students. *At-Risk students are defined as students whose family meets the federal standard for the free and reduced lunch programs. Priority is given to dropouts and At-Risk students who meet the Expanded Options Program requirements.*

The purpose of the Expanded Options Program is to give eligible students in grades 11 and 12 additional resources to meet their high school graduation requirements and to earn college credit. To meet the required eligibility students must -

- Be enrolled in an Oregon public school in grades 11 or 12 and be 16 years of age or older at the time of enrollment in an Expanded Options Program course.
- Have developed an educational learning plan
- Have not successfully completed four years of high school
- Have completed course requirements for graduation, but have not received a diploma.
- Be a resident of Gladstone School District
- Not be a foreign exchange student enrolled in a cultural exchange program
- Not be taking a full schedule of Gladstone High School classes. Students may substitute a dual-credit course for one or more of their regular high school courses.

Participation in the Expanded Options Program is contingent on the student's acceptance by an eligible post-secondary institution.

Eligible students may not enroll in eligible post-secondary courses for more than the equivalent of two academic years, and eligible students who first enroll in grade 12 may not enroll in eligible post-secondary courses for more than the equivalent of one academic year.

Eligible post-secondary institutions include community colleges, any member of the Oregon University System or Oregon Health Sciences University. Clackamas Community College (CCC) is the eligible post-secondary institution that we work most closely with in providing adult diploma and college credit opportunities for our students. Students who qualify for this program will be eligible for free tuition, books and standard fees, contingent upon a negotiated agreement between the school district and the institution. Transportation will be the responsibility of any student participating in courses/classes offered by an institution outside the boundaries of Gladstone School District.

Eligible courses, including those at Clackamas Community College, must meet Gladstone High School (GHS) graduation standards or must meet the minimum state standard for a high school diploma.

- Includes any nonsectarian course or program offered through an eligible post-secondary institution if the course or program may lead to a high school completion, certificate, professional certification, associate degree or baccalaureate degree.
- Includes academic and professional technical courses and distance education courses.
- Does not include any duplicate course with a scope identical to the scope of a course currently taught at GHS.
- Does not include otherwise eligible post-secondary courses if the student is also enrolled full time in the resident secondary school. A student is considered full-time if the student attends classes for credit in the secondary school for all available hours of instruction.

Students may appeal the school's decision on the designation of a duplicate course by submitting a request for review, in writing, to the District's Director of Curriculum (DC), within 3 weeks of receiving

the school's decision. The student and her/his parents will be invited to meet with the DC at the earliest possible date and encouraged to present documentation and other information in support of their appeal. The Director of Curriculum will render a decision with 3 working days and immediately send written confirmation to the family by mail.

If an eligible student wishes to appeal the school district determination that the course is a duplicate course, the student may appeal to the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) or the superintendent's designee. If the SPI or designee fails to issue a decision within 30 days of receipt of the appeal, the course shall be deemed to not be a duplicate course and the student may enroll in the course, if the course and the student meet all other eligibility requirements for the program.

Participation in the Expanded Options Program, while increasing your acquisition of college credits, may delay your completion of a high school diploma. Conflicts between the daily and annual instructional schedules of Gladstone High School and the participating post-secondary institution may limit access to some courses/classes necessary to earn a high school diploma and for participation in graduation.

Provisions of SB 300 include a cap on the number of college credits that the District supports. Currently the cap for Gladstone School District is 270 cumulative quarter credits for all students participating in a year. Access to these credits is given first to eligible at-risk and drop-out students who meet the March 11, 2011 notification deadline. If credits are still available under the cap, seniors will be selected, by lottery if necessary. Any unused credits will be available, by lottery to all remaining eligible students.

If an eligible student requires special education services, the district will convene a meeting to determine how such services can be provided. The student and her/his parents will be invited to this meeting.

Students who enroll in the Expanded Options Program or any approved dual-credit course at GHS will receive a .5 (half) high school credit or more for every three hours of college credit earned. Students may earn as many college credits per quarter or semester as desired.

Failure to complete an eligible post-secondary course with a passing grade of D or better **will** delay high school graduation **and** affect the student's eligibility for continued participation in the Expanded Options Program, and **may** affect the student's eligibility for co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as clubs, sports, and music.

Acceptance into the Expanded Options Program is contingent upon the requirements set forth by CCC, or any other participating post-secondary institution. Students who enter the Expanded Options Program must adhere to the Academic Regulations of the participating post-secondary institution as provided in their course catalog.

Parents or students who are interested in learning more about the Expanded Options Program should contact one of our school counselors or call for an appointment at 503-655-2544. Additional information may also be obtained by visiting the Oregon Department of Education's "Expanded Options" web site - <http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/results/?id=350>.

ATTENTION – The 2007 Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 23, a revision to the initial Expanded Options Program implemented subsequent to the passage of Senate Bill 300 in 2005. Key changes are available on <http://www.ode.state.or.us/news/announcements/announcement.aspx?ID=3163&TypeID=4>

Download the Form and Checklist (Adobe Acrobat document)