



Council for Lifelong Learning **Acceleration Mechanisms**

Fact Sheet

September 2001

<p>1. What are acceleration mechanisms?</p>	<p>Acceleration mechanisms are intended to shorten the time necessary for a student to complete the requirements for a secondary or postsecondary degree, broaden the scope of courses available to students, or increase the depth of study available for a particular subject. Participation in acceleration programs allows students to save time and money by earning academic credit that may apply toward postsecondary degree/certificate requirements. A variety of acceleration mechanisms are available in Florida for secondary and postsecondary students attending public educational institutions: dual enrollment (See Dual Enrollment Fact Sheet.), advanced placement, early admission, credit by examination, and the International Baccalaureate Program.</p> <p>In addition to the mechanisms available to high school students, students in lower grade levels who take certain high school courses (courses in sections 9-12 of the course code directory) may use the course to satisfy graduation requirements, according to the district's pupil progression plan.</p>
<p>2. What is the cost?</p>	<p>High school students enrolled in dual enrollment courses or participating in early admission programs are not required to pay registration, matriculation and lab fees. Public school students are also exempt from the payment of any fees for the administration of an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) exam. This can represent a considerable cost savings to the student and family.</p>
<p>3. Who can participate?</p>	<p>Public and nonpublic school students are eligible to participate. Home education students may also participate in dual enrollment, early admission, and credit by examination.</p>
<p>4. What is early admission?</p>	<p>Early admission students are enrolled in a postsecondary institution on a full-time basis in courses that are creditable toward their high school diploma and postsecondary degree. They must have completed a minimum of six semesters of full-time high school enrollment, including studies undertaken in the ninth grade. Vocational early admission students are early admission students enrolled full time in an area technical center or community college in courses that are creditable toward a high school diploma and the certificate or associate degree.</p>

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<p>5. What is the Advanced Placement Program?</p>	<p>Advanced placement (AP) serves eligible secondary students by providing them the opportunity to complete college-level studies during high school. To receive college credit for the course at a public postsecondary institution, students must score a minimum of three, on a five-point scale, on the corresponding Advanced Placement Examination. The specific courses for which students receive credit shall be determined by the community college or university that accepts the student for admission.</p>
<p>6. What is credit by examination?</p>	<p>Credit by examination is a mechanism through which secondary and postsecondary students generate postsecondary credit by receiving a specified minimum score on nationally standardized general or subject-area examinations. The examinations and scores required for awarding credit are defined by the State Board of Education. Community colleges and universities may also award such credit based on student performance on examinations developed within and recognized by individual colleges and universities.</p>
<p>7. What is the International Baccalaureate Program?</p>	<p>The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is an advanced level of high school course work that is designed to meet various international university entrance standards. The IB Program is offered through the International Baccalaureate Office (IBO), a nonprofit educational foundation based in Switzerland. The award of credit based on scores achieved on IB diploma program examinations and the transfer of those credits are mandatory. The State Board of Education sets the cutoff scores and the number of credits the students receive for the IB examinations.</p>
<p>8. Do financial incentives exist for offering acceleration mechanisms?</p>	<p>For each student in each advanced placement course who receives a score of three or higher on the AP examination, the district receives a value of .24 FTE (approximately \$800 per student). At least 80 percent of these additional funds must go to the high school offering the AP courses. To each classroom teacher who provides the AP instruction, the school district must distribute a \$50 bonus for each student who scores 3 or higher on the AP exam. A \$500 bonus is paid to each teacher who teaches an AP course at a "D" or "F" school and who has at least one student who achieves a score of 3 or higher on the AP exam.</p> <p>A similar bonus program exists for districts offering the International Baccalaureate Program. IB students must receive a score of 4 or higher on a subject examination for the district to receive the additional value of .24 FTE; and the district receives a value of 0.3 FTE for each student who</p>

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	<p>receives an IB diploma (total is approximately \$1000 per student). The 2001 Legislature (Ch. 2001-47, L.O.F) provided that the teachers of IB courses receive the same type of bonuses that are distributed for teachers of the AP courses.</p>
<p>9. What are the applicable statutes and rules?</p>	<p>Section 232.246, F.S.—General requirements for high school graduation Section 236.081(1)(k) and (m), F.S. -- AP and IB bonuses Section 240.116, F.S. -- Articulated acceleration Section 240.1161, F.S. -- District interinstitutional articulation agreements Section 240.1163, F.S. -- Joint dual enrollment and advanced placement instruction Ch. 2001-47, L.O.F. -- IB bonuses</p> <p>Rule 6A-10.024(8), F.A.C. - Articulation between universities, community colleges, and school districts Rule 6A-10.0315, F.A.C. - College preparatory testing, placement, and instruction</p>
<p>10. Where can I get additional information?</p>	<p>Florida Department of Education publications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Code Directory • "Guidelines: Dual Enrollment and Interinstitutional Articulation Agreements" • "Information on Advanced Placement Programs" <p>The Florida House of Representatives Committee on General Education (850) 414-9780</p>