PROGRAM SUPPORT

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Additional resources are available on the Advanced Opportunities website:

See the Training tab for further resources.
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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Advanced Opportunities

The Advanced Opportunities program provides every student attending an Idaho public school an allocation of $4,125 to use in grades 7-12 for certain courses and exams, in which a student may incur a cost.

- **Overload Courses:** An overload course is a high school level course that is taken in excess of 12 credits and outside of the student’s regular school day. These courses are offered online, during the summer, and/or before/after school. In the event that a student incurs a cost for such courses, the Advanced Opportunities program can pay up to $225.00 for the cost of the course.

- **Dual Credit Tuition:** Students earn dual credit by taking courses that are recorded on both a high school and a college transcript. The program can pay for up to $75.00 per credit for these courses. Dual credit courses can be taken in a student’s high school, online, by virtual conferencing, or in some cases directly on the college/university campus. More information on specific Idaho colleges and universities can be found in the Links tab on the Advanced Opportunities website.

- **Exams:** A student can utilize funds to pay for a variety of exams and proctoring fees. Exams include: Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), College Level Examination Program (CLEP), college entrance exams and Career & Technical Education (CTE) exams. A full list of qualifying exams and the maximum reimbursement possible is available in the Resource Files on the State Advanced Opportunities website.

- **Workforce Training Courses:** Students may use up to $500.00 per course ($1000.00/year) to cover the cost of approved, regionally in-demand workforce training courses or apprenticeships that are not available at their high school. These opportunities must be provided by an Idaho public technical college; lead to an industry-recognized certificate, license or degree; and allow high school students to participate.

*Remedial or repeated content is ineligible for funding through the Advanced Opportunities program.*

Challenging Courses

Many school districts provide options for students to challenge courses for credit. In most cases, this means that a student would request to challenge a course by taking an exam. If the student meets the level of mastery set by the local school board for a given set of standards, the school can grant the student a high school credit without requiring that the student take
the course. Local school districts can be contacted for a list of courses eligible for challenge in their districts under Advanced Opportunities.

**Early Graduation Scholarship**

Early Graduation Scholarships are available for students who graduate at least one full year early from a public high school. These scholarships are equal to 35% of the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) for a given school year. This equates to roughly $1,850.00.

Scholarships can be used at Idaho public post-secondary institutions. This has been determined to include workforce training programs. The school district will receive the same amount as the early graduate’s scholarship, regardless of whether or not the student utilizes the scholarship.

Students must apply for the scholarship through the Advanced Opportunities portal using the student login. Schools must code the students as an early graduate, using the appropriate ISEE exit codes of 4G, 4H, or 4I, and the postsecondary institution must confirm enrollment before funds will be sent directly to the institutions in the term during which the student begins the postsecondary program.

**Funding Information**

If a student is taking a course from an Idaho public college the institutions have agreed to wait for a tuition payment, if the student has an approved request submitted in the Advanced Opportunities portal, knowing payment will be arriving at the end of the semester. The state will pay these institutions directly. Depending on the college organizational structure, payment may need to be rerouted.

**End of Fiscal Year**

It is critical that all deadlines are met. Idaho Statute 33-4602 requires that all requests are made prior to the end of the fiscal year (June 30th). The system does allow for make-up payments between terms within the school year, however, these requests may only be entered if allowed by course providers.
PORTAL ACCESS

To gain Advanced Opportunities portal access, a new user will need to create an ISEE account. [https://auth.sde.idaho.gov/Other/Registration/Register](https://auth.sde.idaho.gov/Other/Registration/Register) After creating an account, please contact the Advanced Opportunities Support Team to have the correct user permissions assigned to the account for Advanced Opportunities.

Upon entering the portal, the following options will appear across the top:

![Portal Options](image)

If these options are not visible, please contact the Help Desk to ensure that the correct role has been assigned.

**College User**

The College User has the following menus:

![College User Menu](image)

**COURSE CATALOG**

It is up to the course provider to maintain a current list of dual credit courses to ensure that school districts can make them available to school staff and students. This feature can be found by selecting “Manage Course Catalog” from the “Course Catalog” tab. Select the school year when prompted. The College User may add individual courses via this screen or may upload an entire catalog via the “Upload Course Catalog” screen. Users may also edit individual records in this screen.

To add an individual record, click “Add New Record.” The following screen will appear:
The College User will enter the course name, institution course (a local course number descriptor), number of credits, cost per credit, total course cost, semester/trimester availability, course type (use the dropdown menu), and CIP code (for workforce training courses only).

Once the course information has been entered, the User must click “Save Changes” or all the entered information will be lost.

For consistent naming conventions, the SDE requires that providers enter the course code followed by the course name. This will allow district personnel, students, and parents to register with ease.

Example: POLS 101 Political Science

Additionally, the course providers must indicate the terms during which the courses will be made available to students. “Allow” indicates that courses are open for enrollment. “Disallow” indicates that courses are closed for enrollment. Please note that the summer is the start of the next school year in the Advanced Opportunities portal. For example, Summer 2021 belongs to the 2021-2022 school year. To allow a course, the User will simply click on the word “Disallow” and select “Allow” from the drop-down menu, then save changes.

This is also the screen from which the User can edit an individual course record. To do so, click on the item that needs edited. Add the correct information and “save changes.”

Catalog Upload

At the beginning of the school year, course providers can upload a new catalog in the form of a CSV file. When doing this, it will override the previous catalog and any settings associated with it. Therefore, it is recommended that this be done only in between terms.

To upload a catalog, the User will go to College User / Course Catalog / Upload Course Catalog.

Download the “Course Catalog Templates” file. Fill out the template as follows:

- **SchoolYear:** Type in the end year of the applicable school year, for example enter “2021” for the 2020-2021 school year
• **CourseName**: Type in the name of the course. Use proper naming conventions such as “ENGL 101 English Composition”

• **CreditNumber**: Enter the number of credits such as “3”

• **CreditCost**: Enter the cost per credit, such as “75”

• **AvailableSummer**: Identify if the course is offered during the summer term. Enter “Y” for Yes and “N” for No

• **AvailableFall**: Identify if the course is offered during the fall term. Enter “Y” for Yes and “N” for No

• **AvailableSpring**: Identify if the course is offered during the spring term. Enter “Y” for Yes and “N” for No

• **CourseType**: Enter Overload Course, Dual Credit, or Workforce Training to identify the type of course being uploaded

• **Institution CourseID**: Enter the institution’s unique course ID

• **Granter Name**: College name

• **CipCode**: Enter the Classification of Instructional Programs code for the associated course

Do not leave any information blank. This will result in an error and will require another upload. Use the Column Format and Mappings file if you need assistance in completing your file.

When finished, save the file in **.CSV format**. This format preserves the file information for upload to the system.

Return to the Upload Course Catalog Page of the portal. Select “Browse” to choose the file. Locate the file on your computer and click on “Upload Course Catalog.”

Under the Course Catalog dropdown menu, the College User will have the option to manage the course catalog once it has been uploaded.
STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Under the Student Accounts tab, the User can use the Student Lookup Tool.

Student Lookup

The Student Lookup Tool will allow the User to view relevant student information when entering the EduID, First Name, and Last Name of a student. This page will provide a snapshot of where the student has used funds, how much funding remains, and whether or not there are flags. Please note that this information is to remain confidential and is only to be used to inform accurate participation in Advanced Opportunities programs.

VERIFY ENROLLMENT

To view a list of all courses for which a funding request have been entered please select Verify Enrollment / Verify Student Enrollment. As each course moves through the verification process, the status listed will change.

This view may be filtered by school year, term, course status, and school district. In order to populate information select one or multiple filter and select “Populate Grid”.

---

Student Lookup Tool

To be directed to the student’s activity profile, enter student’s EduID number, first name, and last name and click “Lookup.”

- EduID
  - EduID

- First Name
  - First/Given Name

- Last Name
  - Last/Family Name

[Lookup]
As courses are added to the queue, course providers will verify whether or not students are enrolled in these courses. The first column titled “Enrolled”, has a check box available to verify enrollments. If a student is enrolled in the course, please verify their enrollment by checking the box that corresponds to the course. If a student is not enrolled in a course, leave the box blank. (You will want to send these courses for review if students fail to register by your institution’s add/drop deadline.) Click “save changes” before moving to the next screen.

When looking at this information, it is important that course details are carefully reviewed. If a course was entered as “Other” by school district personnel, the title of the course will be editable. To edit the course, select the title of the course to be directed to the course details. Generally, course funding requests should be selected from a prepopulated list provided by the course providers catalog.

If you are noticing courses that are not selected from the drop-down menu, please contact the SDE.

For community colleges, it especially important to check the county of residency. If the county of residency is incorrect, click on the course name, and edit the county of residence before verifying enrollment.

**Funding Request Status**

Courses, which are entered by students and district personnel, will go through the following status sequence:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status:</th>
<th>Description:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pending Initial Approval</td>
<td>The student has submitted a reimbursement and the district has neither approved nor denied it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status:</td>
<td>Description:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Level Approval Received</td>
<td>The school has approved the reimbursement, and the entry is still editable by district users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending SDE Approval</td>
<td>The reimbursement has been submitted to SDE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarification Requested</td>
<td>This course has an issue needing to be resolved. The issue is outlined in the notes section. School district personnel can re-approve this course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>This course reimbursement has been approved for payment and is only editable by the SDE.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note that school districts cannot submit data to the SDE until the enrollment verification of their district is completely matched with the course providers.*

**Clarification Requested**

Course funding requests that need a clarification or a correction, Course Providers can move courses into a “Clarification Requested” status. To do this, click on the title of the course, enter the reason in the Notes box, and select “Send for Review.” This will push the funding request into a separate report page for district personnel to resolve the issues that have been identified and re-approve or deny. Providers may also send courses here for which students are not enrolled, this will likely alert the District that action is needed.

**Enrollment Match**

The Enrollment Match function indicates the percentage of matching data between course providers and school districts (i.e. the number of courses funding requests made and the number of courses that have enrollment verified). Before a school district can submit data to the State Department of Education, data must meet a 100% match with the course provider. Any school district with percentages less than 100% must be reconciled. A provider will work in partnership with the school district to ensure that all the data is correct.
Using the filter for enrollment match can be a great tool to help providers find districts still needing enrollment match. Using the filter select “is less than or equal to” and type “100”. This will show districts that are not at 100% enrollment match.

Using filters from the Verifiy Student Enrollment screen will allow providers to find those students that either need to be verified or send to the district for clarification. For example, the User can sort by district and then select “is false” (meaning enrollment box is not checked) to filter the Enrolled column of the report. This will show the User only those courses that haven’t yet been matched for the district. The User may also export the file to a CSV, where the report can also be sorted to identify issues.

Courses sent to review are not considered part of the enrollment match process.

REPORTS

Under College User / Reports, the User will find options for View Statements, All Courses, Utilization.
View Statements

Under “View Statements”, the User can see all Advanced Opportunities billing statements and their detailed information. The statements may be sorted by Advanced Opportunities Billing and Out of District Billing (for community colleges).

![View Billing Statements](image)

To see the details of any statement, the User may click on the statement ID number, with the arrow next to it. This will open up a Billing Details screen, which will identify the billing statement number, Advanced Opportunities program name, provider, billing item type, student name, course/exam name, and billing item amount.

The various billing statements could be for:

- Early Grad Scholarship (WT)-workforce training early graduation scholarship payment
- Early Grad Scholarship-degree seeking student early graduation scholarship payment
- Fast Forward-dual credit or overload course payments
- (County) Fast Forward-out-of-district payments

Status could be:

- Received- A payment is owed to the SDE by the course provider and has been received.
- Paid- The SDE has made payment to the course provider.
- Not Yet Received- A payment is owed to the SDE by the course provided and has not yet been received.
- Unpaid- The SDE has generated a statement to the course provider, but has not yet been paid.

View All Courses

Under View All Courses report, the User may sort by school year, term, and course status. This screen will allow Users to find details of particular student funding requests from current and prior years.
Course Status includes the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pending Initial Approval</td>
<td>The student has submitted a reimbursement and the district has neither approved nor denied it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Level Approval Received</td>
<td>The school has approved the reimbursement, and the entry is still editable by district users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pending SDE Approval</td>
<td>The reimbursement has been submitted to SDE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarification Requested</td>
<td>This course has an issue needing to be resolved. The issue is outlined in the notes section. School district personnel can re-approve this course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Reimbursement</td>
<td>Application was revised to pay out more. Revision requires additional funds from SDE. Revised after being paid; means Requested was raised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved</td>
<td>The reimbursement has been approved by SDE and is being prepared for payment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denied</td>
<td>The school/district denied the reimbursement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denied upon Revision</td>
<td>Application was denied upon revision. Initial payment made in error, all funds returned to SDE. Revised after being paid; means Requested was set to 0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>Course has been paid.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund to SDE</td>
<td>Application was revised to pay out less. Revision requires return of funds to SDE for overpayment. Refund to SDE. Revised after being paid; means Requested amount was lowered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reimbursement in Error</td>
<td>Error state from system itself; unused. Reimbursement in Error. System error - shouldn't ever happen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rejected</td>
<td>The SDE has revised and denied the reimbursement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reversal in Error</td>
<td>Reversal in Error; System status; Unused. System failed to update correctly - shouldn't ever happen.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The View All Courses Report details the following:
This report may also be exported to a CSV file. The export may provide funding amounts of each student available, out-of-district payments, and flag details.

Utilization

The Utilization report provides useful information about the program usage, including total number of each type of courses, number of credits taken, amount paid, and student count by school year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Overload Courses</th>
<th>Dual Credit Courses</th>
<th>Workforce Training Courses</th>
<th>Dual Credit Credits</th>
<th>Dollars Paid</th>
<th>Student Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**COURSE PROVIDER DEADLINES**

Deadlines for student application data entry and data submission in the portal are set by the SDE for all school districts. Districts with special circumstances may be able to adjust deadlines to meet local needs, but this only must be done after consultation with providers and with final approval from the SDE. Only the SDE can adjust these windows in the portal.

The following deadlines for the 2021-2022 school year are below. This chart is also available on the Home page in the Advanced Opportunities portal.
If course applications are entered into the portal past the recommended deadline, it is up to the course provider to determine whether to accept such registrations. The SDE recommends that any entries made after these deadlines be done with the consent of both the school district and the course provider.

Once course entries are approved by school users, course providers can begin to provide verification of course enrollment. Course providers will have approximately a 6-week window to complete the verification process. Upon verification of course enrollments, the school districts must submit data to the SDE by the dates noted above.

Upon the districts’ submissions to the SDE, the course providers will have a one-week window (5 business days) during which they may access the data and use it to finalize internal records. If errors are found during this process, please contact the SDE to correct these errors.

The SDE will process all submitted data and may reach out to districts or course providers at this time if any red flags arise. Upon SDE approval, payments will be made to course providers and school districts.

**STUDENT FLAGS**

Flags are indicators in the portal related to program eligibility. If a student has an active flag, this can be viewed using the View Flags page. To see the details of any flag a user may click on the flag and pop-up window will provide any supporting details. An active flag is indicated with no date in the ‘Cleared Date’ column. If a date is present in the ‘Cleared Date’ column, the flag is not active.
Green Flags

Green flags indicate a normal status of a student’s A.O. account.

Unsuccessful Attempt Flag

When a student fails to complete a class due to withdrawal, failing grade, or non-completion, a flag shall be placed onto the student’s account. This allows all portal users to know that the student must then pay for and earn credit or complete a like course before further Advanced Opportunities funding can be used.

Student Flags

Student flags serve as a communication tool for students and administrators related to the student’s account. Flags are entered based on student activity using Advanced Opportunities. When adding a new record, select the reason and type and input the course or exam name (e.g. ENGL 101 Writing and Rhetoric I or AWS Certified Welder). In the notes section, input details that may help others understanding the flag (e.g. course provider, term, credit number, exam taken date).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Add new record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edu ID</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To enter a flag, go to the individual student account. This can be accessed through the “Student Lookup Tool” or by going to “View Courses” and searching through entered courses; clicking on the blue EDUID link of the student who requires a flag. Clicking on the hyperlink will take the user to the individual student record.

Once in the student profile, “Student Flags” will appear at the top of the record. To add a flag, click on “Add a new record”. Enter specific details, as a student may have more than one flag in place at a time. Select the following: reason, type, course name failed, and notes.

- Reason: specify the reason the flag is being entered (Failed, Withdrew or Other)
- Type: specify the course type (overload, workforce training, dual credit or exam type)
- Course/Exam Name: enter the course name (e.g. Math 123 Math in the Modern Society or Electrical Apprenticeship 1A)
- Notes: Please add any additional notes that would help others reviewing the flag to understand details (e.g. cost of the course, term, number of credits)
Example: “Failed, Workforce Training, Nursing Assistant, $500 used in FA 2020”

Select “Update” to add the flag.

Once a flag is entered, the circle at the end of a student record will appear red. Flags may be entered and cleared by the district, the course provider, or the SDE. It is important to remember that students can also view the flags.

To clear a flag, a user must go to the student profile and select “Clear Flag.” The flag will show the user who cleared it and the date it was cleared. The flag should only be cleared once the student has fulfilled the terms of the flag (e.g. paying for the next like course). It will remain as part of the student’s record.

### Advising Flag

![Yellow Flag]

Students who access A.O. funds for more than 15 credits must receive postsecondary advising. When students reach this threshold, the circle at the end of their record will automatically turn yellow. A student will not be eligible to receive any additional funding until the student has been advised. Once the student has received advising, the yellow flag can be cleared by a college or school district User. If a flag is both yellow and red, this indicates that the student needs advising and also has an unsuccessful attempt flag on their account.

### Warning Flag

![Purple Flag]

When a student has $500 or less of available funds in their account, a purple flag will automatically alert students and Advanced Opportunities Designees. This will post to the student account so eligibility status can be seen by both student and Advanced Opportunities
designee in the funding request report page when choosing courses/exams. Once a student has an approved expenditure “School Level Approval Received” the funding will be accounted for in the students total available funding.

**Pro Tip: Export to CSV will provide additional details into an excel document that can be easily filtered, to create lists and find additional details of flag content.**

### EARLY GRADUATION SCHOLARSHIP MANAGER ROLE

The Early Graduation Scholarship (EGS) Manager will verify student enrollments and track scholarship payments.

#### View EGS Applications

To verify student enrollments, the EGS Manager will go to EGS Manager / Reports / View EGS Applications. To verify enrollment, the EGS Manager can sort the report by student name, term, school year, student birth date, or EduID. Once the enrolled student is found, the manager will check the box in the “Is Enrolled” column. This will let the state know that the student is enrolled and if eligible the scholarship can be awarded.
View EGS Statements

Under View EGS Statements, the EGS Manager can see the scholarship payments that have been made to the school, which includes the statement number, the total paid, and the date the payment was made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement ID</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Paid To</th>
<th>Advanced Opp</th>
<th>Statement Total</th>
<th>Creation Date</th>
<th>Paid Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>544</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>College of Southern Idaho</td>
<td>Early Grad Scholarship</td>
<td>$1,861.00</td>
<td>8/1/2017</td>
<td>8/4/2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To see the details of each statement, the EGS Manager can click on the Statement ID, which will then bring up a second screen with all the individual student records. The “Export to CSV” feature will bring up additional details of the payment made.

View EGS Billing Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Billing Statement Number</th>
<th>Advanced Opp Name</th>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Billing Item Type</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Course/Exam Name</th>
<th>Billing Item Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>544</td>
<td>Early Grad Scholarship</td>
<td>College of Southern Idaho</td>
<td>EGS Student</td>
<td>Early Grad Scholarship</td>
<td>$1,861.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The scholarship is worth 35% of ADA; this is slightly more than $1,850.

EGS Payment Schedule

Payments will be made in a single payment according to the following schedule.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advanced Opportunities Portal EGS Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall 2021</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment sent to colleges by: August 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make-up payment sent by: September 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring 2022</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payment sent to colleges by: January 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make-up payment sent by: February 24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HELP

The Help feature in the A.O. portal provides a means to communicate information with the Idaho State Department of Education in a secure manner through the Online Tool for IT support (OTIS). Please do not send any personally identifiable information (PII) via email, the SDE will be unable to respond. From the help page follow the on-screen directions:

Click: “Go to OTIS”.

Submit a ticket by selecting “Create A Ticket”.

Select “Web App (apps.idaho.sde.gov)” as the primary ticket type.

Select the Issue (most common are Data Fix or Use Inquiry).

Select “Advanced Opportunities in the category.

Input information in the description and add any attachments. Please avoid using PII in the summary.

Portal HELP Page:

OTIS:

OTIS is a secure incident tracking application that can be used to deliver data. Personal identifiable information (PII) like students, teachers, users or any individual's identified or identifiable information should be communicated through OTIS only. Users can create tickets, add notes or attachments to their existing tickets and view or search any tickets created by them using OTIS.

Do not put any PII data in summary of the ticket. PII data should be in notes or attachments of the ticket.

Need to send secure information to the Idaho State Department of Education? Follow these steps:

- **Step 1:** Click “Go to OTIS”.
- **Step 2:** Submit a ticket. Select “Create A Ticket” from OTIS screen.
- **Step 3:** Select Ticket Type. For Advanced Opportunities select “Web App (apps.idaho.sde.gov)”. Select the issue, and select category as “Advanced Opportunities”.
- **Step 4:** Avoid typing personal information in the Summary. Add any attachments. Select “Create Ticket”.

Go to OTIS

OTIS User Guide
Thank you for your dedication to Idaho students!

The State Department of Education is appreciative of all the efforts put in by course provider personnel to ensure that benefits of Advanced Opportunities are paid out to Idaho students. Additionally, we are committed to ensuring effective implementation of these programs. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to contact the Advanced Opportunities Support team.