

## PSEO Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### General Information All Students

#### Materials

**Question:** I'm ordering a book for a class and I'm paying with my own money (e.g., ordering from Amazon). Will Financial Aid refund me after the payment has been processed?

**Answer:** All books and materials required for the course are expected to be provided by the PSI at no charge to the student. Do not purchase out of pocket unless instructed by the postsecondary institution (PSI).

**Question:** What expenses might a student participating in PSEO be charged for?

**Answer:** Postsecondary Education Options (PSEO) is intended to be free to a student where district or Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) payment will include materials except that students may be charged for required items that become the property of the student (i.e., books that are not returned, custom work boots, uniforms, etc.).

#### *Free Class Period*

**Question:** If PSEO students need to have a free class period to work on their PSEO class, can that free period be at home (if they start later or end their day early)?

**Answer:** A student must have a free period during the school day to be eligible to participate in PSEO. Under the PSEO statute, the high school cannot limit participation in PSEO based on grades or courses a student chooses to take. The PSI determines eligibility and, as long as the student has an open slot in their high school day, the postsecondary institution determines what courses a student is allowed to take.

While a district may have made an agreement with a college to pay directly for PSEO courses, the high school cannot prevent a student from accessing PSEO under the program outlined in Minnesota Statutes 2021, section 124.D09. That is, if a student meets the postsecondary institution's enrollment requirements, the student may take courses the postsecondary institution is willing to enroll the student in and would not be limited by restrictions from the high school. ([MARSS Data Elements Definitions](#))

#### *Reporting to MDE*

**Question:**

How can a district determine what the PSEO High School Hours are?

**Answer:**

**Full-Time PSEO:** Report high school hours 0000 for students who did not participate in PSEO, or who participated but were not enrolled in classes at the high school. The record for PSEO participants who are reported with zero PSEO High School Hours will generate a warning message (\*W\*) on the Minnesota Automated Reporting Student System (MARSS) Error Report. For students who did not participate in high school courses, this message should be ignored. However, for PSEO students who did participate in credit-bearing classes at the high school or who also participated in a postsecondary course(s) through courses according to agreement (district-paid postsecondary tuition), the warning message should not be ignored.

**Part-time PSEO:** If a student is a part-time PSEO student, these are the credit-bearing membership hours PSEO students are required to be in the high school while participating in PSEO.

### *Course Eligibility*

**Question:** Can eligible students enroll in PSEO courses that meet elective requirements above and beyond those required to graduate?

**Answer:** Eligible students may enroll in PSEO courses that are dual credit only, meaning the course must apply to both the high school and college transcript.

**Question:** What if my high school will not accept a PSEO course for my high school transcript?

**Answer:** The high school determines the amount of secondary credit to be awarded upon successful completion of the PSEO course based on a ratio in statute. The high school can determine which subject area the course counts for towards graduation. According to Minn. Stat. 124D.09, subd. 12b [2021], “A district shall grant academic credit to a pupil enrolled in a course for secondary credit if the pupil successfully completes the course.” Minn. Stat. 124D.09, subd. 12d [2021], “The secondary credits granted to a pupil must be counted toward the graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the district.” Seven quarter or four semester credits equal at least one full year of high school credit. Fewer college credits may be prorated.

**Question:** Can eligible students enroll in PSEO subject area courses above and beyond those required to graduate?

**Answer:** Eligible students may enroll in PSEO courses that are dual credit only, meaning the course must apply to both the high school and college transcript. Check ahead of time with your high school counselor for assurance of course credit.

### *Transportation*

**Question:** What transportation is available for PSEO students?

**Answer:** Districts are not obligated to provide transportation for PSEO students between the high school and the postsecondary institution. If a Special Education student has transportation needs related to his/her disability, contact the district. If requested by the parents or guardians, school districts must reimburse low-income families for certain transportation costs incurred traveling to and from courses held on college campuses. Certain mileage limits apply.

Public school districts apply for mileage reimbursement through the state on behalf of eligible public school students. Nonpublic and home-schooled students apply for mileage reimbursement through their postsecondary institution. Visit the School Finance PSEO Reporting page for mileage reimbursement instructions and forms.

**Question:** What if the PSEO class is in session when our school is not? Are there transportation requirements or options for students?

**Answer:** Public school, home school and nonpublic school students from families whose income levels are below the federal poverty guidelines may qualify for [PSEO Transportation Mileage Reimbursement](#). District-provided transportation services are not available for students participating in PSEO. A family must complete the [Application for Student Transportation Reimbursement](#) at the beginning of the application request (or during the school year if there is a change in their financial status). Any questions regarding the forms or process contact [pupiltransportation.mde@state.mn.us](mailto:pupiltransportation.mde@state.mn.us)

### *Years of Eligibility/Age/Grade Limitations*

**Question:** Can students take unlimited PSEO courses until they reach 21 years old?

**Answer:** Minnesota has School Attendance Age Limitations and different statutes apply for regular education students and for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Please see the [MARSS Reporting Instructions MDE Webpage](#) document entitled [School Attendance Age Limitations](#) flow chart decision models to determine age limitations for eligibility for education.

As a reminder of course eligibility and registration:

- All students whether public, nonpublic or home school enrolled, must take courses that are dual credit meaning students must receive both college and high school credit for a PSEO course.
- Students who have graduated are not eligible.
- If the district determines the student is not on track to graduate, students may still be eligible to participate in PSEO on a term by term basis.

**Question:** How many years total can a student take PSEO classes?

**Answer:** The combination of (1) school age, and (2) participation limits are both guidance on the number of years a student may take PSEO classes.

1. [School Age Limitations](#) was developed to provide assistance on questions regarding the age limitation for students eligible for education services, including PSEO. Because different statutes apply, there are [flow charts](#) for regular education students and another for students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Please refer to the flow charts located in [School Attendance Age Limitations for Pupils, Pupil age, Pupil Disability, English Learner; interrupted formal education](#).
2. PSEO participation limits a student who first enrolls in PSEO in grade 9 to four academic years. If first enrollment is in grade 10, he/she may participate for three academic years; for first enrollment in grade 11, two academic years; and for first enrollment in grade 12, one academic year.

**Question:** A student who first enrolls in PSEO (which includes concurrent enrollment and/or PSEO by contract) in grade 9 may not enroll in PSEO for more than the equivalent of four academic years. Is this correct?

**Answer:** Yes, for example: if a student first enrolls in grade 9, they are eligible for PSEO courses through grade 12.

There is one exception for a "not on track to graduate" student. If the school district determines the student is not on track to graduate, PSEO limitations do not apply and the student must have the school district complete and sign the Verification of Extended Eligibility Form.

**Question:** Can an 11<sup>th</sup> grader who has completed all of their graduation requirements continue to take PSEO courses in their 12<sup>th</sup> grade year?

**Answer:** Eligible students who have not graduated may enroll in PSEO courses that are dual credit only, meaning the course must award both high school and college credit on their transcript. Check ahead of time with your high school counselor for assurance of course credit.

**Question:** Can I still take PSEO classes if I am a 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grader that is not on track to graduate?

**Answer:** If all other PSEO eligibility criteria is met, you may be eligible for PSEO if your school district determines you are not on track to graduate (semester basis decision) and completes the Verification of Extended Eligibility Form.

**Question:** Can a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student who completes graduation requirements in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester continue to take PSEO during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester?

**Answer:** Yes. Eligible students may enroll in PSEO courses that are dual credit only meaning the course must apply to both the high school and college transcript. Check ahead of time with your high school counselor for assurance of course credit.

**Question:** Can I take PSEO classes if I am a 5<sup>th</sup> year senior?

**Answer:** If you have not used your grade 12 PSEO eligibility yet, you may take PSEO classes to fulfill required academic courses and are dual credit meaning they apply to both the high school and college transcript.

**Question:** When would the Extended Eligibility form be used?

**Answer:** If the student has accessed PSEO in a grade level, but has not grade progressed in the next school year, to access PSEO the student must have the enrolling district's determination the student is not on track to graduate. A verification form, the Verification of Extended Eligibility is signed by the enrolling public school district and required for each semester of extended PSEO enrollment.

*For Students on an Individualized Education Program (IEP)*

### *Funding*

**Question:** For a student with an IEP, is enrolling in postsecondary courses a special education expense or a general education expense?

**Answer:** For a student with an IEP, the PSEO courses are paid for out of PSEO funding. PSEO funding flows through general education expenses. Student expenses needed to participate in PSEO are not covered by PSEO expenses, but may qualify for special education reimbursement to the school district (e.g., assistive technology). Questions regarding special education funding contact special education funding [mde.spedfunding@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.spedfunding@state.mn.us). Questions regarding special education programming contact should be directed to [mde.special-ed@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.special-ed@state.mn.us).

## *Reporting to MDE*

**Question:** If a student is taking a PSEO class and attending the transition program does the school district need to make their enrollment less than full time?

**Answer:** No. The student must still have a free period during the school day to be eligible to participate in PSEO. The district that signed the PSEO application reports the student as a PSEO participant. For additional questions contact [marss@state.mn.us](mailto:marss@state.mn.us).

## *Years of Eligibility/Age/Grade Limitations*

**Question:** If a student is in a transition program required by their IEP and still has graduation requirements for high school, can the student take PSEO courses?

**Answer:** Yes, all students, with or without an IEP, are treated the same for PSEO eligibility purposes. The following would apply:

- All students whether public, nonpublic or home school enrolled must take courses that are dual credit meaning students must receive both college and high school credit for a PSEO course.
- Students who have graduated are not eligible.
- If the district determines the student is not on track to graduate, students may still be eligible to participate in PSEO on a term-by-term basis.

There are different funding streams available once a student is no longer eligible for PSEO.

If you have further questions regarding special education transition programming, please contact Lindsey Horowitz, [lindsey.jo.horowitz@state.mn.us](mailto:lindsey.jo.horowitz@state.mn.us)