

Extended Learning Opportunities

The Board encourages students to pursue extended learning opportunities as a way to gain knowledge and skills outside the traditional classroom.

“Extended learning opportunity” or “ELO” shall mean an out-of-classroom learning experience that provides a student with:

1. Enrichment opportunities outside of a classroom setting;
2. Career readiness or employability skills, including internships, pre-apprenticeships, and apprenticeships; or
3. Any other type of out-of-classroom educational opportunity approved by the State Board of Education or board policies.

All ELOs shall comply with applicable laws and regulations, including child labor laws and regulations governing occupational safety.

In determining whether to approve an ELO proposed by a student or by a prospective supervising organization, the District shall consider the overall benefits, costs, advantages, and disadvantages to both the student and the District.

Approval of a Proposed ELO

An organization, such as a nonprofit organization, an Idaho business, a trade association, or the United States armed forces may apply to offer District students a for-credit ELO. The application must demonstrate that the opportunity will teach students specific Idaho Content Standards or the Idaho College and/or Career Readiness Competencies and Subskills.

Requests by organizations seeking to offer an ELO shall be evaluated by the Superintendent. The Board directs the Superintendent to create a process for evaluating these applications.

Once an organization has been approved as an ELO, the District shall consider it an approved ELO for all students.

Request by Student for Credit

A student may request credit for a proposed ELO on an individual basis. A student must complete an application for ELO, which must be signed by their parents/guardians/custodians.

The application must demonstrate how the opportunity will teach the student specific Idaho Content Standards or the Idaho College and/or Career Readiness Competencies and Subskills.

Such applications must be submitted to the building principal at least ten (10) business days prior to the beginning of the proposed opportunity when seeking approval. The deadline may be waived at the building principal's discretion.

A student may submit an application to receive credit for an activity as an ELO after it has begun, provided the application is made within ten (10) business days of the start of the activity.

The application will be reviewed by the building principal. A decision will be made within five (5) business days of receipt of the application. If additional information is requested, the information must be submitted within five (5) business days of receipt of the request. The student will be notified in writing of the decision.

Appeal Process

A student whose application has been denied may request a meeting with the building principal within five (5) business days. The student will be provided with an explanation of the denial. If the student is not in agreement with the denial, then the student may appeal to the Superintendent. All decisions made by the Superintendent shall be final.

Nature of Credit Awarded

If a middle level or high school student requests credit for an ELO and the District approves this request, or if the student participates in an approved ELO, the student shall receive credit toward their graduation requirements.

If an elementary student requests credit for an ELO and the District approves this request, or if the student participates in an approved ELO, the student shall receive credit toward mastery of required skills or standards.

The District may award elective credit for an ELO that does not qualify for credit toward core instruction graduation requirements.

The Board directs the Superintendent to draft criteria for determining how many credits may be earned through ELO opportunities and whether a proposed ELO will qualify for credit toward one or more core subjects, elective credit, or required skills or standards. Credit counted toward a core subject shall only be awarded for ELOs which align with the content standards of a course for which core credit is awarded.

Successful completion of an ELO will award a student a letter 'P' for passing on their transcript. A student will receive credit toward graduation requirements but not receive a letter grade.

The Board directs the Superintendent to track approved ELOs and make information on approved ELOs available to guide students, parents/guardians, and community members who may be interested in pursuing or offering an ELO.

Responsibility

Any ELO shall be the financial responsibility of the student's parent/guardian/custodian. The student or their parent/guardian/custodian will be responsible for providing transportation to and from the off-campus site.

The organization supervising any ELOs shall be responsible for the student's personal safety and well-being.

An application signed by the building principal, the student, the student's parent/guardian/custodian, and a designated agent of the supervising organization will be required before an ELO will be approved by the District. The application must specify the roles and responsibilities of each party.

It is the student's responsibility to maintain academic standing and enrollment. Any failure to complete an approved program may jeopardize the student's ability to earn credit for the course and may result in the ELO being counted as a failing grade.

In order to ensure the integrity of the learning experience approved under this program, the student will be required to provide evidence of progress and attendance. The building principal shall be responsible for certifying completion of the ELO and the award of credits consistent with the District's policies, procedures, and rules.

In order to certify completion of co-curricular programs and activities based upon specific instructional objectives aligned to the standards, the District shall develop procedures to be implemented at the schools to document student progress and program completion in each student's record.

Legal References: I.C. § 33-6401 et seq. Extended Learning Opportunities

Policy History:

Adopted on: September 11, 2024

Revised on:

Reviewed on: