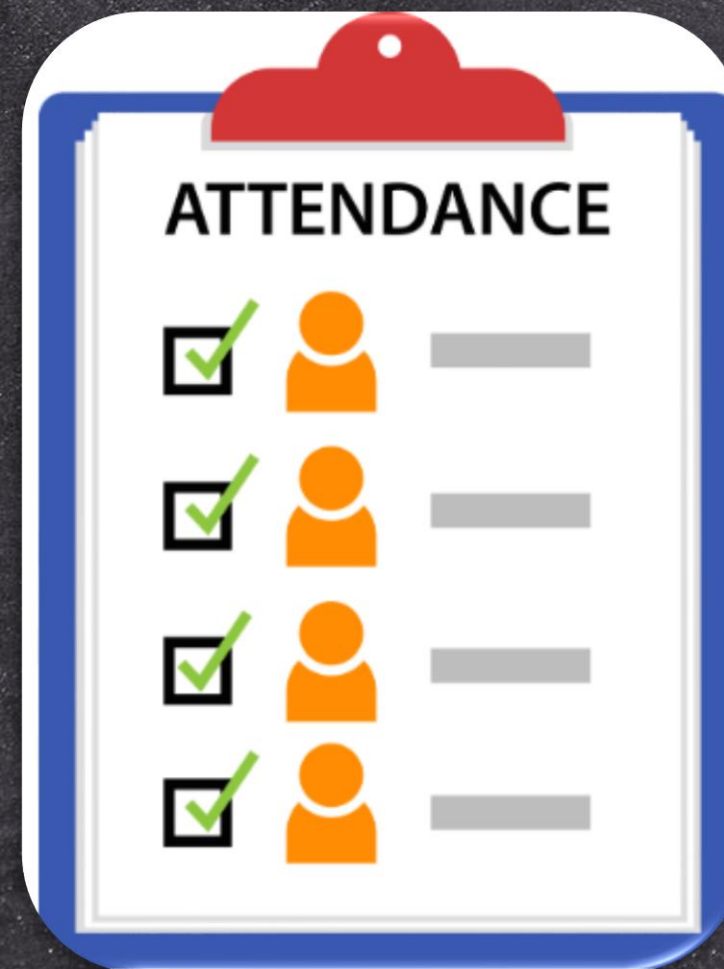


FPSD DISTRICT-WIDE RUNNING START INFO SESSION

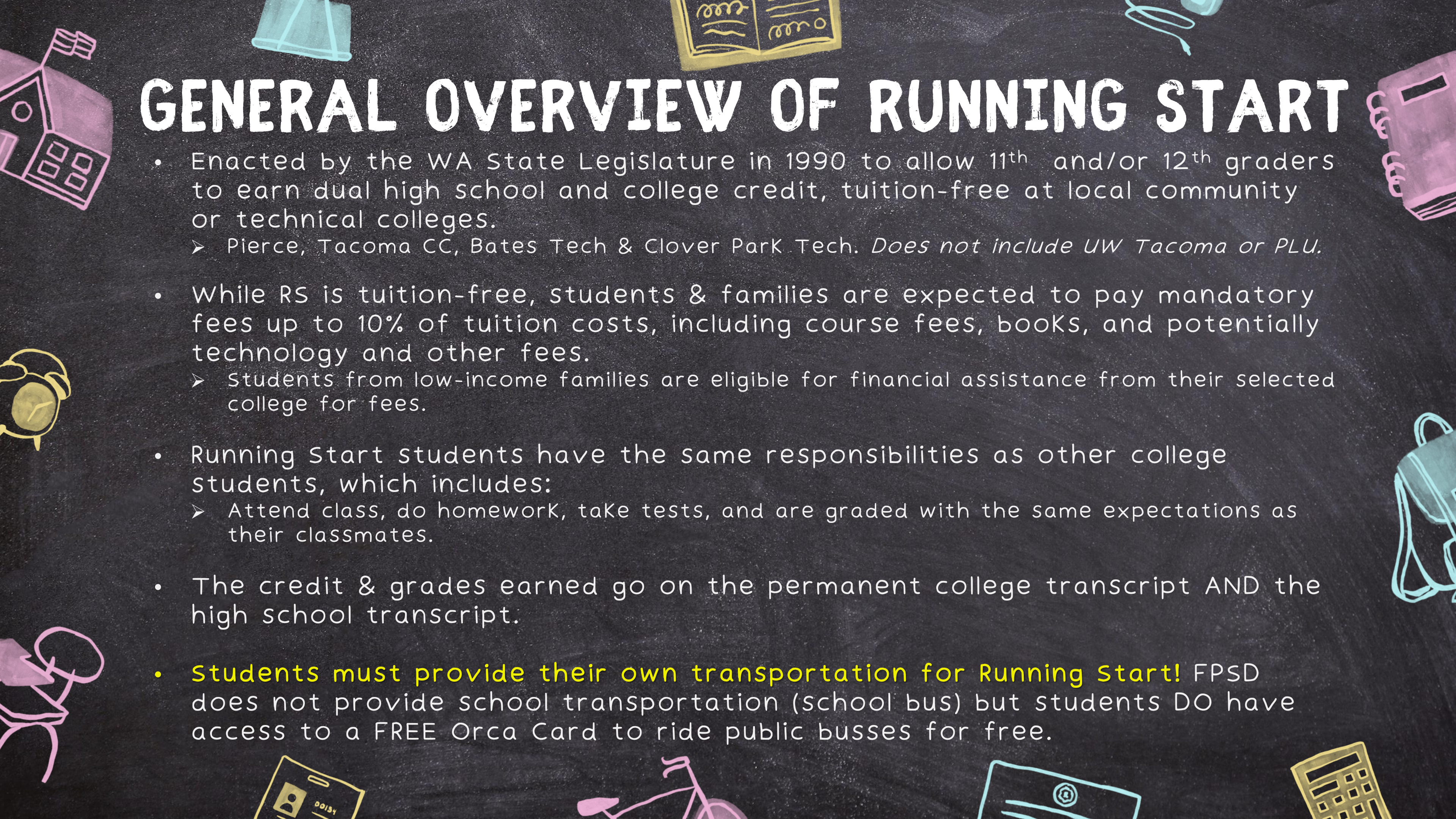
Spring 2026

PLEASE FILL OUT ATTENDANCE CHECK-IN FORM:

<https://forms.office.com/r/VDXQhu57KR>



ATTENDANCE		
☒		_____
☒		_____
☒		_____
☒		_____



GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RUNNING START

- Enacted by the WA State Legislature in 1990 to allow 11th and/or 12th graders to earn dual high school and college credit, tuition-free at local community or technical colleges.
 - Pierce, Tacoma CC, Bates Tech & Clover Park Tech. *Does not include UW Tacoma or PLU.*
- While RS is tuition-free, students & families are expected to pay mandatory fees up to 10% of tuition costs, including course fees, books, and potentially technology and other fees.
 - Students from low-income families are eligible for financial assistance from their selected college for fees.
- Running Start students have the same responsibilities as other college students, which includes:
 - Attend class, do homework, take tests, and are graded with the same expectations as their classmates.
- The credit & grades earned go on the permanent college transcript AND the high school transcript.
- **Students must provide their own transportation for Running Start!** FPSD does not provide school transportation (school bus) but students DO have access to a FREE Orca Card to ride public busses for free.



DUAL CREDIT COMPARISON: RUNNING START VS. COLLEGE IN THE HS

There are four main differences:

1. Where the course is offered & who teaches the course

Running Start

Taught on a college campus
in person or online by a college faculty member

College in the HS

Taught on a high school campus by a
college-approved high school teacher

2. Who is eligible to enroll in the course

Running Start

Students in 11th & 12th grade

College in the HS

Students in the 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades,
depending on the course

3. Credit Transcription

Running Start

Automatically establishes a college transcript

College in the HS

May take courses for high school credit
without enrolling for the college credit

4. Funding

Running Start

Students may enroll tuition-free up to a
maximum of 21 college credits
(if no classes at HS)

College in the HS

Students can register and enroll in CiHS
classes at no cost.



ACADEMICS – ARE YOU READY?

- Remember, these are COLLEGE level courses
 - There is no “extended semester” – a deadline means it’s a deadline!!!
- You must qualify for ENGLISH at the 100 level or above.
 - To take math at Running Start, you need to PASS/COMPLETE through Algebra II.
- When picking your classes, HIGH SCHOOL comes first, then your college classes as far as time of day
- Attendance MATTERS at college & at home high school, if taking a class there.
- IEP or 504
 - It is the student’s responsibility (not parent/guardian) to request any necessary accommodations from Disability Support/Services office at the college.

MATURITY, SELF-MANAGEMENT
and COMMUNICATION are Key to success!!!!

COST: WHAT IS COVERED & WHAT IS NOT

ENROLLMENT VERIFICATION FORM (EVF)

- # of periods you're enrolled in = how many credits covered by program. At FPHS & WHS:
 - 0 classes at HS = up to 21 credits (4 classes)
 - 1 class at HS = up to 18 credits (~3 classes)
 - 2 classes at HS = up to 12 credits (~2 classes)
- If you go over the approved number of credits, student/family is responsible for paying the tuition.

RUNNING START DOES NOT PAY FOR:

- Remember, students & families are expected to pay mandatory fees which can be around \$300 per quarter.
- Out-of-pocket costs may include: course fees, books, and potentially technology and other fees.
- Are you qualified for Apple Health? SNAP/EBT? TANF? There could be help to pay for some of the above.

**WHILE ALL STUDENTS IN FPSD DON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR BREAKFAST/LUNCH.
THAT DOES NOT MEAN ALL STUDENTS QUALIFY UNDER FEDERAL GUIDELINES IN THE FREE/REDUCED
LUNCH PROGRAM.**

HOW RS CREDITS TRANSFER TO HS

5.0 Quarter Credits = 1.0 HS Credit (a full year!)

➤ 1 Quarter Credit = 0.2 HS Credit

MATH

- Currently in Geometry = MUST take Algebra II at home high school
- Currently in Algebra II = CAN take MATH& 107 or MATH& 141 or MATH& 146

Here is a typical 11th grader schedule for Fall Quarter:

Course	<u>Pierce</u>	<u>Tacoma CC</u>	<u>Clover Park Tech</u>
English 11	ENGL& 101	ENGL& 101	ENGL& 101
US History	HIST& 156 or 157 or 158	HIST& 146 or 147	HIST& 146
Elective	COLL 115 or COLL 110	COL 101	COLL 102

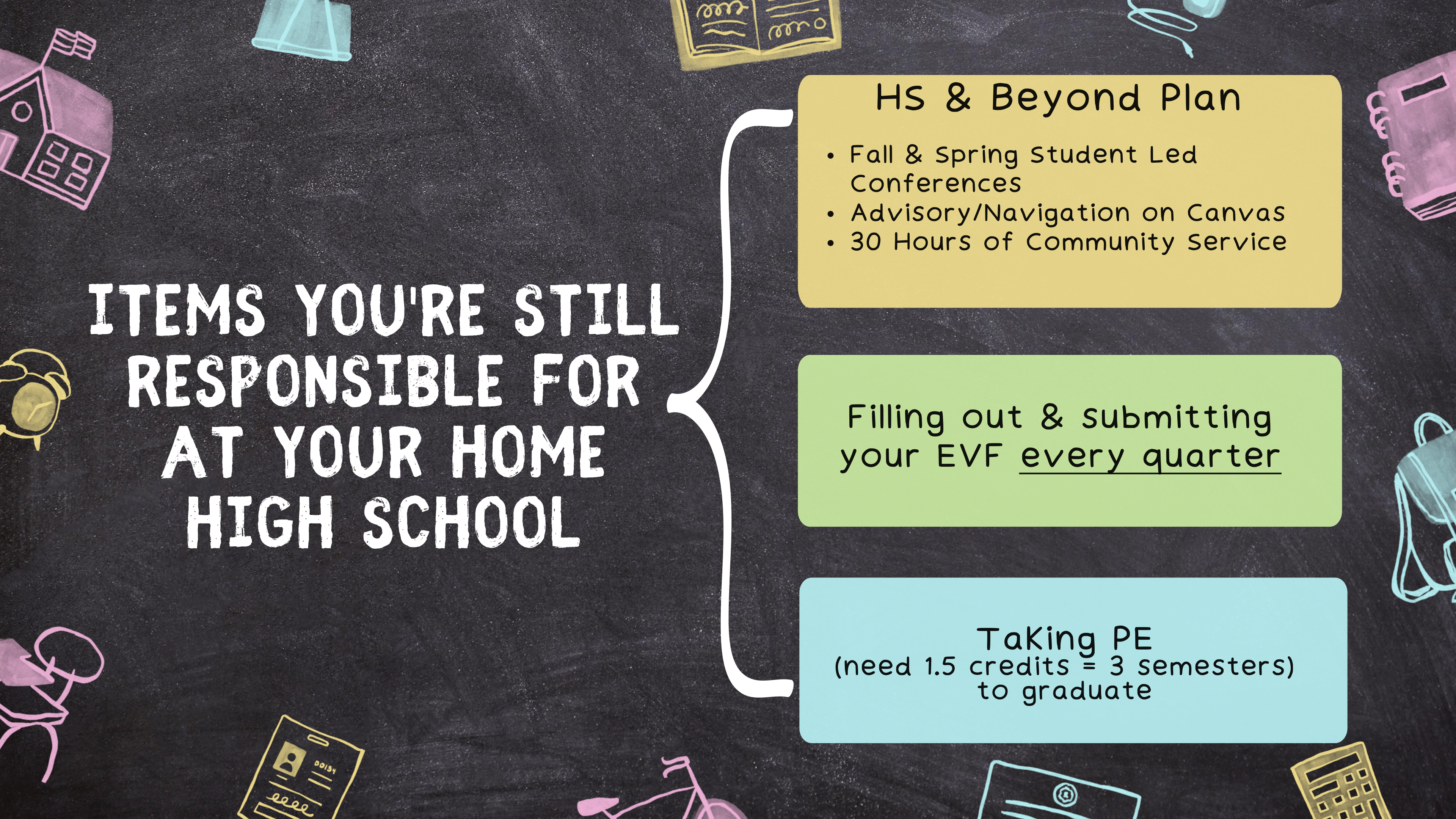
POTENTIAL FUTURE IMPLICATIONS



- Running Start classes MIGHT impact your future financial aid after high school
 - Credits earned as a Running Start student are subject to "Satisfactory Academic Progress" (usually a 2.0 or higher)
 - Not meeting Academic Progress can negatively impact future financial aid eligibility
- The grades you earn in Running Start are part of your PERMANENT academic record, including:
 - High School Transcript & GPA
 - College Transcript & GPA

COMMUNICATION CONSIDERATIONS

- Parents/Guardians – when your student enrolls at the college level (even while a high school student), you do NOT have access to grades or ability to email/contact college instructors.
 - This is due to FERPA: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which is a federal guideline.
 - Each college has a release form that is available to gain access and must be signed by student.
- Students – you MUST continue to use high school Canvas and high school email
 - That means you probably have THREE emails to check regularly: FPSD, Running Start and personal (icloud/gmail etc.)
- Dates & Deadlines – EVFs, class registration, withdraw/drop deadline



ITEMS YOU'RE STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR AT YOUR HOME HIGH SCHOOL

HS & Beyond Plan

- Fall & Spring Student Led Conferences
- Advisory/Navigation on Canvas
- 30 Hours of Community Service

Filling out & submitting your EVF every quarter

Taking PE
(need 1.5 credits = 3 semesters)
to graduate

FRANKLIN PIERCE SD RUNNING START CONTACT INFO

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Gates HS

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LET'S HEAR FROM OUR
RUNNING START
PARTNERS:
CPTC. PIERCE & TACOMA