ZCHS SENIOR TRANSITION PROGRAM

2027-2028

Program Overview

Throughout their time within Zionsville Community Schools, our students engage in rigorous and comprehensive educational experiences. They are challenged by high expectations through a curriculum supported by research-based instruction. During their first three years at Zionsville Community High School, students have the opportunity to immerse themselves in advanced curriculum, dual-credit, Project Lead the Way (PLTW), J. Everett Light (JEL), and Advanced Placement (AP) coursework.

As ZCHS students enter grade 12, many are prepared to engage in advanced coursework and experiences to prepare them for the independence of adulthood. The purpose of this program is to provide students with the opportunity to explore life readiness while maintaining the supportive structures of their families, ZCHS, and the broader community.

Opportunity for Seniors Whose Post-Secondary Plans Include:

- **Enrollment** - attending a 4-year college
- **Employment** - entering a career-driven job
- **Enlistment** - joining the military

Course Load & Scheduling Expectations

- All participants must maintain a diploma-earning course load, with at least four courses in-person at ZCHS each semester.
- All core (Math, Science, Social Studies, English) courses must be taken in-person at ZCHS.
- Participants may take up to seven courses each semester and will not be assigned a MAP period.
- Schedules will follow the Green Day/Silver Day format. Specific class periods or semesters cannot be customized.
- Counselors will not modify schedules to accommodate requests for consolidated free periods, late arrival, or early dismissal.
- After February 4, participants may not request to drop a credit-bearing course in exchange for a release period, as release periods will not be added to a participant's schedule.
- After schedules are released to students in early May, participants may request to change a credit-bearing course to another credit-bearing course, just not a release period. Requests are subject to the ZCHS schedule change guidelines (p. 33), course availability, and STP eligibility requirements.
- After the last day of school, during Back-to-School Days, and once school has started, participants may not request an additional release period. Other schedule change requests are subject to the ZCHS schedule change guidelines (p. 33), course availability, and STP eligibility requirements.

Eligibility Requirements

All ZCHS rising seniors are eligible to participate in the Senior Transition Program if they meet the following general requirements after completing grade 11:

- Are on track to meet graduation credits by the end of their cohort year
- Have an exemplary record of attendance and behavior during grades 9-11
  - Exemplary attendance is defined as having no more than 10 full-day or 10 class-period absences in each school year. Attendance information is available to students and families via the Attendance Dashboard in PowerSchool.
  - Exemplary behavior is defined as having no suspensions or multiple behavior logs during grades 9-11. However, students with a suspension during Grades 9-11 may be considered on an individual basis.
- Attendance & Behavior will be re-evaluated in May of the junior year. Senior Transition Program privileges can be revoked if exemplary attendance & behavior is not maintained.

Senior Year Guidelines

- Participants must follow all school policies and procedures.
- Participation is a privilege, not a right. It may be revoked at any time if a student fails to meet academic, attendance, or behavioral expectations.
- Participants remain eligible for extracurricular activities if they meet the same standards as all students.
- Students should work closely with their parents and counselor to determine if the program is the right fit.
- Participants course selections are subject to counselor and/or administrative approval.
- Participants may leave campus during unscheduled periods but must carry their student ID at all times. While off campus, school conduct rules apply.
- Participants may remain on campus during open periods in designated supervised spaces (e.g., media center or with an assigned staff member).
- Progress, grades, attendance, and discipline will be monitored throughout senior year.

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Post-Secondary Pathway-Specific Information

Enrollment Bound

Additional Eligibility:

- Be on track for a Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma or a Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma
- Achieve College and Career Readiness benchmarks on the PSAT by the end of junior year (Benchmarks: 460 EBRW, 510 Math, as defined by College Board)
- Have successful completion (C– or higher) of at least one weighted in-person core course taken at ZCHS prior to senior year

Course Load Requirements:

- Participants must take at least four weighted courses each semester, in-person at ZCHS, from the approved Senior Transition Program list.

Scheduling:

- It is recommended to include three to four core academic courses for college readiness.
- Participants should review college admission requirements for senior course expectations.
- Participants are encouraged to structure their non-scheduled time just as first-year college students: studying, collaborating, conducting research, meeting with instructors, participating in internships or healthy off-campus activities.

Employment Bound

Additional Eligibility:

- Be on track for a Core 40, Core 40 with Academic Honors diploma or a Core 40 with Technical Honors diploma
- Planning for employment post high school that would lead to a career
- Completion of a CTE Pathway through JEL or a career-based pathway through ZCHS

Course Load Requirements:

- In addition to the minimum of at least four courses each semester, in-person at ZCHS, the remainder of the course-load would be Career Information Exploration or Work-Based Learning Capstone.

Scheduling:

- Career Information Exploration or Work-Based Learning Capstone periods would align with the participant's career-based employment opportunities.

Enlistment Bound

Additional Eligibility:

- Earn a 31 or higher on the ASVAB with the intention to enlist
- Participate in three of the six military workshops at ZCHS
- Provide documentation from a recruiter verifying communication about enlistment opportunities

Course Load Requirements:

- In addition to the minimum of at least four courses each semester, in-person at ZCHS, the remainder of the course-load may be individualized release periods to complete requirements of an Introduction to Public Services course, military-related training, recruiter meetings, or physical readiness activities.

Scheduling:

- Individualized release periods can be arranged with student, family, and recruiter for enlistment preparation including military-related training, recruiter meetings, or physical readiness activities.

Senior Transition Program Application

To apply for the ZCHS Senior Transition Program, participants should work with their parent/caregiver to complete **this form** prior to their scheduling meeting with their counselor.