



Articulated Acceleration Mechanisms

What are articulated acceleration mechanisms?

Articulated acceleration mechanisms are available to secondary and postsecondary students attending public educational institutions and serve to shorten the time necessary for a student to complete the requirements for a high school diploma and a postsecondary degree. Such mechanisms allow Florida schools to increase the depth of study in a particular subject and expand available curricular options.¹

Articulated acceleration mechanisms include, but are not limited to, dual enrollment, early admission, Advanced Placement (AP), the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program, the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program, and credit by examination. Credit earned through the Florida Virtual School also provides additional opportunities for early graduation and acceleration.²

Who may participate?

All eligible public and private secondary school students may participate in articulated acceleration mechanism programs.³ Home education students may participate in dual enrollment, career dual enrollment, early admission, and credit by examination.⁴ Postsecondary students may participate in the credit by examination program.⁵

How is college credit awarded through the articulated acceleration mechanisms?

The Department of Education (DOE) is required to identify the minimum scores, maximum credit, and courses for which credit is to be awarded for each AP, IB and College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) examination.⁶ In addition to approving the recommendations for AP, IB, and CLEP examinations, the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors (BOG) are required to determine the minimum scores and credit to be awarded for AICE examinations.⁷ The scores and credit awards for all acceleration mechanism programs must be set forth in the statewide articulation agreement executed by the state board and the BOG.⁸ This agreement, among other things, serves to facilitate the articulation of student credit across and

¹ Section 1007.27(1), F.S.

² *Id.*; s. 1007.22(2), F.S.

³ Section 1007.27, F.S.

⁴ Section 1007.27(4), F.S.

⁵ Section 1007.27(7), F.S.

⁶ Section 1007.27(2), F.S.

⁷ Section 1007.27 (9), F.S.

⁸ Section 1007.27(6) - (9), F.S.

among Florida's secondary and postsecondary institutions and to govern the use of acceleration mechanisms.⁹

What is dual enrollment and early admission?

The dual enrollment program is an acceleration mechanism that allows an eligible high school or home education student to enroll in a postsecondary course creditable toward an associate or baccalaureate degree or career certificate.¹⁰ Upon successful completion of a dual enrollment course, the student simultaneously receives high school and college, university, or career certificate credit. Eligible students are permitted to enroll in dual enrollment courses conducted during and after school hours and during the summer term.¹¹

Early admission is a form of dual enrollment for college-level or career coursework. Eligible secondary students enroll on a full-time basis in a postsecondary institution or career center in courses that are creditable toward a high school diploma and baccalaureate degree, associate degree, or career certificate.¹² To participate in career early admission, students must have completed at least six semesters of full-time secondary enrollment, including studies undertaken in the ninth grade.¹³

What is the Advanced Placement Program?

The AP Program is a system of advanced academic courses administered by the College Board.¹⁴ The program consists of over 38 rigorous high school courses and nationally standardized examinations in 23 subject areas ranging from art to statistics.¹⁵ The Articulation Coordinating Committee (ACC) identifies, and the state board approves, the scores required to obtain college credit. Currently, students are recommended for college credit only if they receive an examination score of three or higher on a 5-point scale.¹⁶ In 2009, 685 Florida public and private high schools participated in the AP Program¹⁷ and 145,389 students took one or more AP examinations for a total of 260,162 examinations.¹⁸ Forty-five percent of the examinations taken had scores of three or above.¹⁹

⁹ Section 1007.23(1), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 1007.271(1), F.S.; *see also* Dual Enrollment Fact Sheet.

¹¹ Section 1007.271(2), F.S.

¹² Section 1007.271(7) and (8), F.S.

¹³ Section 1007.271(8), F.S.

¹⁴ Section 1007.27(6), F.S.

¹⁵ Florida Department of Education, *2009-2010 Florida Counseling for Future Education Handbook*, at 66 (2009) available at http://files.facts.usf.edu/pdfDocuments/manuals/Handbook_0910.pdf [hereinafter *Education Handbook*].

¹⁶ Section 1007.27(6), F.S.; *see also* Articulation Coordinating Committee Credit-By-Exam Equivalencies www.fldoe.org/articulation/pdf/ACC-CBE.pdf (last visited Aug. 2, 2010).

¹⁷ College Board School Report of AP Examinations 2008-2009 (By State); available at <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/school-report-exams-2008-09.pdf>.

¹⁸ College Board, Annual AP Program Participation for the State of Florida; available at http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/student/testing/ap/sumrpts/2009/xls/FLORIDA_Summary.xls.

¹⁹ See College Board 2009 State Report for Florida School AP Grade Distributions by Total and Ethnic Group; available at http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/exgrd_sum/2009.html.

What is credit by examination?

Credit by examination is the mechanism through which high school and postsecondary students earn college credit by achieving a minimum score, as determined by the state board and the BOG, on a nationally standardized general or subject area examination. Institutions in the Florida College System (FCS) and the State University System may also award college credit based on student performance on examinations developed within and recognized by individual colleges and universities.²⁰

The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) is a widely accepted form of credit by examination that assists students in earning college degrees more quickly, by receiving college credit when they can demonstrate mastery of a particular area.²¹ Thirty-three individual examinations are currently available in areas such as composition and literature, foreign languages, history and social sciences, science and mathematics, and business.²² During FY 2008-09, 10,897 students took a total of 12,677 CLEP examinations at Florida test centers.²³

What is the International Baccalaureate Program?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program is administered by the International Baccalaureate Organization.²⁴ The IB Program is an intensive two-year curriculum that allows students to earn an IB diploma in addition to the standard high school diploma.²⁵ Students enrolled in an IB program are eligible to receive postsecondary credit only if they obtain a passing score on the corresponding IB examinations. Public school students in Florida are exempt from the payment of any fees associated with the administration of the examinations²⁶ regardless of whether they achieve a passing score.

IB Program courses are usually taken by secondary students in grades 11 and 12.²⁷ The ACC identifies, and the state board approves, the scores required to obtain college credit. Currently, students are recommended for college credit if they receive an examination score of four or higher on a 7-point scale.²⁸ Students may be awarded a maximum of 30 semester credit hours earned through the IB program.²⁹

In FY 2008-09, IB Programs were available in 30 of the state's 67 school districts, with 54 public and 8 private high schools participating. During the 2008-09 academic year, 10,206

²⁰ Section 1007.27(7), F.S.

²¹ See s. 1007.27(2) and (7), F.S.

²² Email, Florida Department of Education (Aug. 17, 2010).

²³ Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, Government Program Summaries, *Department of Education Acceleration Programs*, May 4, 2010, <http://www.oppaga.state.fl.us/profiles/2028/> (last visited July 27, 2010) [hereinafter *OPPAGA Acceleration Programs*].

²⁴ Section 1007.27(8), F.S.

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ There is a \$135 per student registration fee for the IB Program. For each subject examination taken, the cost is \$92. For a diploma student taking six examinations, the cost would be \$135 (registration fee) in addition to the six examination fees for a total of \$687 per student. Florida Department of Education, Email correspondence, March 12, 2010.

²⁷ *Education Handbook*, *supra* note 15 at 72.

²⁸ *OPPAGA Acceleration Programs*, *supra* note 23.

²⁹ Section 1007.27(8), F.S.

students or 1% of all public high school students enrolled that year, were enrolled in Florida's IB diploma programs in public high school.³⁰ All Florida universities recognize and enroll IB diploma holders and the program is also recognized by universities in more than 100 countries.³¹

To help prepare students for the two-year IB Diploma Program, some school districts offer locally developed "pre-IB" programs or the IB Middle Years Program. These preparation programs are not required for admission into an IB Program.³²

What is the Advanced International Certificate of Education Program?

The Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Program is administered by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate.³³ The AICE program follows an international curriculum and is designed to provide accelerated courses that lead to college credit for students in grades 11 and 12.³⁴ Students who successfully complete six credits within 13 months in mathematics, science, languages, and arts and humanities receive the AICE diploma.³⁵

Public school students in Florida are exempt from the payment of any fees associated with the administration of the examinations³⁶ regardless of whether they achieve a passing score. Cut off scores and postsecondary course equivalencies are determined by the ACC and approved by the

SBE. Students may be awarded a maximum of 30 semester credit hours earned through the AICE program.³⁷ Passing scores on AICE examinations range from "A" to "E," with "A" being the highest. A grade of "E" on an AICE Examination corresponds to an AP examination grade of 3.³⁸ During the 2008-09 academic year, 2,524 Florida high school students were enrolled in AICE courses.³⁹

What are the advantages for students who participate in certain articulated acceleration mechanisms?

High school students enrolled in dual enrollment courses or participating in early admission programs are not required to pay registration, tuition, or lab fees.⁴⁰ In addition, instructional materials assigned for use within dual enrollment courses must be made available to public school students free of charge.⁴¹ An FCS institution may provide instructional materials at no

³⁰ *Id.*

³¹ *Education Handbook, supra note 15, at 71.*

³² *Education Handbook, supra note 15, at 72 and 73.*

³³ Section 1007.27(9), F.S. Cambridge Assessment is the new name for the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES) <http://www.cie.org.uk/aboutcie/history>.

³⁴ *OPPAGA Acceleration Programs, supra note 23.*

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ For the AICE Program, subject examinations cost \$36.10 each. Email, Florida Department of Education, (March 12, 2010).

³⁷ Section 1007.27(9), F.S.

³⁸ *OPPAGA Acceleration Programs, supra note 23.*

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ Section 1007.271(7) and (13), F.S.

⁴¹ Section 1007.271(14), F.S.

cost to home education students or students from private schools participating in dual enrollment courses.⁴²

Public school students are also exempt from the payment of any fees for an AP, AICE, or IB course or examination, even if the student does not achieve a passing score on the examination.⁴³

Any student who earns nine or more credits from one or more acceleration mechanisms is exempt from any requirement of a public postsecondary educational institution mandating enrollment during a summer term.⁴⁴

Participation in postsecondary acceleration mechanisms can result in a considerable cost savings to the student and family.

Are financial incentives provided to school districts and teachers for offering acceleration mechanisms?

School districts that offer AP, IB, and AICE programs, as well as the teachers that provide the instruction in these programs, may be eligible for financial bonuses.⁴⁵

AP District Bonus. School districts are eligible for additional Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) funding based on the examination scores of AP students.⁴⁶ School districts receive an additional 0.16 full-time-equivalent (FTE) student membership for each student that takes an AP examination and receives a score of three or higher on the AP examination for the prior year. This amount is added to the total FTE student membership in basic programs for grades nine through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year. Each district must allocate at least 80 percent of these funds to the high school that generates the additional funds.⁴⁷

AP Teacher Bonus. School districts must award AP teachers a \$50 bonus for each student they instruct who receives a score of three or higher on the AP examination. AP teachers in a school designated with a performance grade⁴⁸ of “D” or “F” who have at least one student scoring three or higher on the College Board AP examination regardless of the number of classes taught or the number of students scoring a three or higher on the College Board AP Examination receive a \$500 bonus.⁴⁹ Bonuses awarded to AP teachers may not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year.⁵⁰

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ Section 1007.27(6), (8), and (9), F.S.

⁴⁴ Section 1007.27(10), F.S.

⁴⁵ Section 1011.62(1) (m), (n), and (o), F.S.

⁴⁶ Section 1011.62(1)(o), F.S.

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ All public schools, including charter schools, which have at least 30 students with valid FCAT scores in reading for the current and prior years and at least 30 students with valid FCAT scores in mathematics for the current and prior years are assigned a school grade. Rule 6A-1.09981, F.A.C. A grade “D” means a school is making less than satisfactory progress and a grade “F” means a school has failed to make adequate progress. Section 1008.34(2), F.S.

⁴⁹ Section 1011.62(1)(o)1. and 2., F.S.

⁵⁰ Section 1011.62(1)(o), F.S. (flush left provision at the end of the paragraph).

IB District Bonus. School districts are eligible for additional FEFP funding based on the examination scores of IB students.⁵¹ School districts receive an additional 0.16 FTE student membership for each student enrolled in an IB course who receives a score of four or higher on the subject examination. In addition, school districts may receive a value of 0.3 FTE student membership for each student who receives an IB diploma. These values are added to the total FTE basic program membership for students in grades nine through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year.⁵² Each school district must allocate 80 percent of the funds received from IB bonus FTE funding to the school program whose students generate the funds and to school programs that prepare prospective students to enroll in IB courses. Funds must be expended solely for the payment of allowable costs⁵³ associated with the IB program. School districts must allocate the remaining 20 percent of the funds received from IB bonus FTE funding for programs that assist academically disadvantaged students to prepare for more rigorous courses.⁵⁴

IB Teacher Bonus. School districts must award IB teachers a \$50 bonus for each IB student they instruct who receives a score of four or higher on the IB examination. IB teachers in a school designated with a performance grade of “D” or “F” who have at least one student scoring four or higher on the IB examination are eligible for an additional bonus of \$500.⁵⁵ Bonuses awarded to IB teachers may not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year.⁵⁶

AICE District Bonus. School districts are eligible for additional FEFP funding based on student AICE examination scores.⁵⁷ School districts may receive an additional value of 0.16 FTE student membership for each student enrolled in a full-credit AICE course who receives a score of “E” or higher on the subject examination. Likewise, school districts may receive a value of 0.08 FTE student membership for each student enrolled in a half-credit AICE course who receives a score of “E” or higher on the subject examination. In addition, school districts may receive a value of 0.3 FTE student membership for each student who receives an AICE diploma. These additional values are added to the district’s total FTE student membership for basic programs for grades nine through 12 in the subsequent fiscal year.⁵⁸

AICE Teacher Bonus. School districts must award AICE teachers a \$50 bonus for each one of their students who receives a score of “E” or higher on a full-credit AICE course examination. Likewise, AICE teachers are awarded a \$25 bonus for each one of their students who receives a score of “E” or higher on a half-credit AICE course examination. AICE teachers in a school designated with a performance grade of “D” or “F” who have at least one student scoring “E” or higher on a full-credit AICE examination may receive an additional bonus of \$500 and those who have at least one student scoring “E” or higher on a half-credit AICE examination may

⁵¹ Section 1011.62(1)(m), F.S., as amended by s. 25 ch. 2010-154, L.O.F.

⁵² *Id.*

⁵³ Allowable costs include IB annual school fees; IB examination fees; salary, benefits, and bonuses for teachers and program coordinators for the IB program and teachers and coordinators who prepare prospective students for the IB program; supplemental books; instructional supplies; instructional equipment or instructional materials for IB courses; other activities that identify prospective IB students or prepare prospective students to enroll in IB courses; and training or professional development for IB teachers.

⁵⁴ Section 1011.62(1)(m), F.S., as amended by s. 25 ch. 2010-154, L.O.F.

⁵⁵ Section 1011.62(1)(m)1. and 2., F.S., as amended by s. 25 ch. 2010-154, L.O.F.

⁵⁶ Section 1011.62(1)(m), F.S. (flush left provision at the end of the paragraph), as amended by s. 25 ch. 2010-154, L.O.F.

⁵⁷ Section 1011.62(1)(n), F.S.

⁵⁸ *Id.*

receive a bonus of \$250.⁵⁹ Bonuses awarded to AICE teachers may not exceed \$2,000 in any given school year.⁶⁰

How does student participation in articulated acceleration mechanisms affect School Recognition Program awards?

The Florida School Recognition Program⁶¹ provides public recognition and financial awards to public schools that demonstrate high student performance by receiving a school grade of "A" or exemplary improvement due to innovation and effort by improving at least one letter grade or by improving more than one letter grade and sustaining the improvement in the following school year.⁶² Beginning with the 2009-10 academic year, the high school grading system includes the performance and participation of a high school's students in AP, IB, dual enrollment, and AICE courses and the students' achievement of national industry certification identified in the Industry Certification Funding List as a factor in determining a school's grade.⁶³ Accordingly, high schools with successful articulated acceleration mechanism programs have the opportunity to increase their eligibility for School Recognition Program awards.

Where may I get additional information?

Florida Department of Education

Office of Articulation

(850) 245-0427

<http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/>

FACTS.org

1-866-324-2618

<http://www.facts.org>

Florida House of Representatives

Education Committee

(850) 488-7451

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov>

⁵⁹ Section 1011.62(1)(n)1., 2., and 3., F.S.

⁶⁰ Section 1011.62(1)(n), F.S. (flush left provision at the end of the paragraph).

⁶¹ See School Recognition Program and School Grades Fact Sheets for additional information.

⁶² Section 1008.36(2)(a) and (b), F.S.

⁶³ Section 1008.34(3)(b)2.b., F.S., as amended by s. 11 ch. 2010-22, L.O.F.; see also rule 6A-1.09981, F.A.C.

