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MEMORANDUM

TO: Exceptional Student Education Directors

FROM: Cathy Bishop, Interim Chief

DATE: December 9, 2011

SUBJECT: Dual Enrollment and Students Participating in TPSID Programs

Recently, a number of questions have been posed regarding dual enrollment and Transition and Postsecondary Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSIDs). Specifically, districts and institutions of higher education (IHE) have inquired as to whether or not these students meet the criteria for dual enrollment and waiver of tuition, books, and fees.

Currently, section 1007.271, Florida Statutes (F.S.), *Dual enrollment programs* states, "For the purpose of this section, an eligible secondary student is a student who is enrolled in a Florida public secondary school or in a Florida private secondary school which is in compliance with s. 1002.42(2) and conducts a secondary curriculum... . Students enrolled in postsecondary instruction that is not creditable toward the high school diploma shall not be classified as dual enrollments."

The Florida Department of Education's position is as follows:

- The provisions for the waiver of tuition, fees, and books apply to **all** students who meet the criteria for dual enrollment and who are working toward a high school

CATHY BISHOP, INTERIM CHIEF
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

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diploma. This means that a student who is pursuing a diploma (e.g. standard, special, performance) and is seeking to enroll in career credit courses must have a 2.0 unweighted grade point average; a student seeking to enroll in college credit courses must have a 3.0 unweighted grade point average. The type of diploma does not matter as long as the **student is continuing to pursue a diploma** and is being provided a free appropriate public education (FAPE). For example, "*student A*" decided not to graduate with a special diploma at age 18, but to remain in secondary education for FAPE until age 22. The student's individual educational plan (IEP) team determined that he would be an ideal candidate for a postsecondary program located at the university. The student's application was accepted, and he will be taking several college credit courses per semester. Student A is eligible for the waiver of tuition, fees, or books as the student continues to work toward a special diploma. (It is assumed that this student has a 3.0 GPA.)

- The waiver is not to be used for continuing education (e.g., a student who has previously exited with a special diploma and returned for FAPE). For example, "*student B*" exited with a special diploma at age 18. The student decided to re-enroll for FAPE until he reaches age 22. The student's IEP team determined that he would be an ideal candidate for a postsecondary program located at the university. His application was accepted, and he will be taking several college credit courses per semester. The student is not working toward a diploma as he has already received a special diploma; the student is not eligible for the waiver of tuition, fees, or books. (It is assumed that this student has a 3.0 GPA.)

While section 1007.271(3), F.S., requires a 2.0 unweighted grade point average to enroll in career credit courses and a 3.0 unweighted grade point average to enroll in college credit courses, it also allows for "...exceptions to the required grade point averages if the educational entities agree and the terms of the agreement are contained within the dual enrollment interinstitutional articulation agreement." This section also allows college boards of trustees to establish additional admissions criteria.

Students participating in TPSIDs may or may not meet the criteria for dual enrollment. We do not believe that dual enrollment will be a solution for all students participating in TPSIDs; however, dual enrollment may be an option for some students. As we further develop and expand opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to participate in postsecondary education, we will explore all of the various options for supporting students in these areas.

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Districts are encouraged to review s.1007.271, F.S., *Dual enrollment programs*, for all requirements associated with dual enrollment at s.1007.271.

If you need additional information regarding this memorandum or assistance regarding exceptional student education and secondary transition, please contact Sheila Gritz, Program Specialist, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, by phone at (850) 245-0478, or by email at Sheila.Gritz@fldoe.org.

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