

# **Greater Albany Public School District Expanded Options Program Questions & Answers**

**Who is an “Eligible Student”?** An “eligible student” is one who:

- Is currently enrolled in South Albany High School, West Albany High School, or Albany Options School, **and**
  - Will be in grade 11 or 12 based on number of credits earned **and**
  - Will be 16 years old or older at the time of enrollment in a course under the Expanded Options Program, **and**
- Has developed an educational learning plan, **and**
- Has not successfully completed all the requirements for a high school diploma

**What is an “Eligible” Post-Secondary Institution?** In Oregon, an “eligible post-secondary institution includes community colleges, public Oregon universities, and Oregon Health Sciences University.

- Albany’s post-secondary partners have been identified as Oregon State University and Linn-Benton Community College.

**What is an “Eligible Post-Secondary Course?”** An “eligible post-secondary course”:

- Is any non-sectarian course or program offered through OSU or LBCC that may lead to high school completion, a certificate, professional certification, associate degree or baccalaureate degree.
- Is not offered at the student’s resident school.
- Includes academic and professional technical courses, and, if appropriate, distance education courses.

**What is the purpose of an Expanded Options Program?** An Expanded Options Program:

- Creates a seamless education system for public school students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 to have additional options to continue or complete their education, to earn concurrent high school and college credits, and to gain early entry into post-secondary education;
- Promotes and supports existing accelerated college credit programs, and supports the development of new programs that are unique to Albany’s partnerships with OSU and LBCC;
- Provides college credit opportunities for high school aged at-risk students and dropouts;
- Provides public funding to OSU or LBCC for education services to eligible students to offset the cost of tuition, fees, textbooks, equipment and materials for students who participate in the Expanded Options Program.

**What transportation services are available?**

- Students must provide their own transportation. The district does not provide transportation.

**What are the effects of enrolling in the Expanded Options Program on the eligible student’s ability to complete the required high school graduation requirements?**

- Students are still required to complete all state and district requirements for a diploma.
- Coursework taken at OSU or LBCC will be recorded on the student’s transcript and will be factored into the high school GPA and class standing.

**What are the consequences of not maintaining satisfactory academic progress as defined by OSU or LBCC, such as failing or not completing an eligible course?**

- Students must make satisfactory academic progress in their OSU or LBCC coursework in order to continue in the program.
- All grades earned through the Expanded Options program are factored into the high school GPA and class standing and become part of a student’s permanent college record.
- Poor academic grades may negatively impact a student’s chances of being accepted by colleges and universities of his/her choice after graduation from high school.

**Do students “apply” to participate in the Expanded Options program?**

- “Eligible” high school students will be expected to follow an application process outlined by OSU or LBCC. High school representatives will inform students about how to complete this process.
- OSU and LBCC have the right to deny access to the Expanded Options program to eligible students.

**What courses can be taken at OSU or LBCC?**

- Students **may** take OSU or LBCC courses through the Expanded Options Program that are not offered at their resident high schools and that support their educational learning plan. Students will be provided assistance in course selection. Students are required to meet the qualifying scores on all placement tests designated by the higher education institution.

- OSU and LBCC may designate individual programs in which eligible students may enroll. In addition, the district reserves the right to approve all courses that are part of the student's Expanded Options schedule.
- An appeals process will be established to review course selection decisions and will be made available to students and parents.

#### **How many credits/courses can an “eligible” student take?**

- The state has developed a formula cap to help schools calculate how many credits are available for students to access each term. The actual number of available credits is based on the number of students attending the high school.
- The Expanded Options program gives priority to “at risk” students when there are more eligible students interested in participating in the program than there are credits available.
- “At risk” students are students who are identified as qualifying for free/reduced lunch or who meet the state and/or federal poverty guidelines. .
- Individual Albany students in the Expanded Options Program may take up to 12 credit hours at OSU or LBCC. Twelve credit hours is considered a full-time college student. Efforts will be made to provide all eligible students opportunities for credits through the Expanded Options Program.
- Students must also enroll in courses at their resident high school to complete available required graduation coursework.
- No summer coursework is available through the Expanded Options program.

#### **Additional Important Information:**

- Eligible students may not enroll in OSU or LBCC courses for more than the equivalent of two academic years, and eligible students who first enroll in grade 12 may not enroll in eligible OSU or LBCC courses for more than the equivalent of one academic year. Programs available for students who have met graduation requirements include the Extended Campus program and the Advanced Diploma program.
- A student who has graduated from high school may not participate in the Expanded Options Program.
- An eligible student who has completed course requirements for graduation but has not received a diploma should participate in the *Extended Campus* program rather than the Expanded Options program.
- The district is responsible for providing any required special education and related services to identified students. Parents/guardians must participate in an IEP meeting to review how the Expanded Options program meets their student's academic needs.
- The district will serve students who are not “at risk” in the following priority order:
  - All students who meet the legislative requirements;
  - All students who have senior status;
  - All students with senior status who turn in eligibility response forms on time;
  - All students with senior status who meet the eligibility placement scores necessary for requested “unduplicated” LBCC or OSU courses;
  - All students with senior status who are taking a sequential (fall/winter/spring) course;
  - All students who have junior status;
  - All students with junior status who turn in eligibility response forms on time;
  - All students with junior status who meet the eligibility placement scores necessary for requested “unduplicated” LBCC or OSU courses;
  - All students with junior status who are taking a sequential (fall/winter/spring) course.
- Students may be enrolled half time in the program and half time at their resident high school, provided a course schedule can be developed that allows for regular attendance in all classes.
- Additional partnership programs may also be available that allow students to earn college credits through their high school program. These include, but are not limited to the following: Dual Credit, Tech Prep, 2+2, and AP courses. High school counselors are available to advise students about criteria and access to these partnership programs.
- All textbooks, fees, equipment and materials provided to an eligible student and paid for by the school district are the property of the resident school district of the student.
- Students will not be reimbursed for textbooks without appropriate receipts that indicate the title of the text, date of purchase, and amount paid.
- OSU and LBCC will provide academic advising and scheduling assistance to the student and the district.
- Foreign exchange students enrolled in school under a cultural exchange program are not eligible for the Extended Option Program.