

PPSD Guidelines for Advanced Coursework Network

Overview:

We know that many of our PPSD students have the talent to graduate from college, but do not end up graduating due to a number of reasons, including tuition cost and lack of familiarity with a college campus. This program addresses both of those challenges, and this initiative specifically targets the students who need this most – our students in Providence.

Courses are open to all grade levels in middle and high school. Think of the talented freshman, sophomores and juniors who could be earning college credit online or through face-to-face instruction. There are many courses that would interest our students, from Basic Statistics, Expository Writing, Spanish in the Workplace, Art & Social Justice, Intro to Public Speaking, Intro to Film Studies, Intro to Public Health, Role of Education in Community Development, & Basic EMT Training. There are a number of courses in the network that also offer high school or middle school credit. In addition, some may offer career credentials or opportunities to explore career options.

Some quick facts about the advanced coursework network:

- Cost/Tuition fees are free for any Rhode Island public school student.
- Classes are offered online and/or in person in the evening.
- Students are able to take courses through the network and earn high school credit.
- Any student who enrolls in the program and takes a course offered by our college partners (they can take up to 2 per semester) will become an official college student and will receive email, ID #, ID card and full access to college facilities and amenities.
- Students who pass their courses will receive college credits. Please note that for private and out-of state colleges, transfer policies are specific to each institution. Generally courses should transfer, but it can not be guaranteed.

Every high school in this district has students who would benefit from the Advanced Course Network program. There are five colleges in the Network: Roger Williams, Johnson & Wales, Providence College, NEIT, Salve, and NE Maritime. There are also many community-based programs available for students such as PASA, Riverzedge, and Astro Curricular. It is important that our students take full advantage of these free opportunities.

[Attached](#) is the course catalog from RIDE. Please let me know directly if you have any questions, or require support in pursuing this opportunity for our students.

Thank you,
Christopher Maher
Superintendent



Advanced Coursework Network Rhode Island District & School Member Assurances

Vision. Through the Advanced Coursework Network, Rhode Island students have access to advanced courses that enable them to graduate high school as college and career-ready individuals, with the skills, knowledge, college credits and/or industry credentials that match their interests. Together, Rhode Island's secondary schools, postsecondary institutions and community based organizations offer a comprehensive portfolio of academic and career-focused courses necessary to graduate fully-prepared students.

Overview. The Network engages schools, students and families to give Rhode Island students access to courses that enable them to envision, pursue and complete their individualized graduation pathways. The Network allows students and their families to choose to enroll in formerly unavailable high-value academic and career-focused courses. Students remain enrolled in their current public school, but can supplement their existing curricular options to improve their college and career preparedness.

Network Member Commitments - General Assurances. The local education agency shall be responsible for:

- (1) Providing reasonable opportunities for the participation by students, teachers, parents, and other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals in the planning for and operation of the Network;
- (2) Assigning at least one district-level and one school-level person to be the point of contact with RIDE. This [these] individuals must sign these assurances;
- (3) Awarding high school or middle school credit, respectively, to all students who participate and successfully complete a Network course;
- (4) Confirming through a RIDE-approved online process that the student requests are academically-appropriate and logistically feasible;
- (5) Supporting students in successfully completing course (i.e. periodic check in, providing computer access for students when required, appropriately scheduled into school day; assisting with transportation needs as appropriate);
- (6) Maintaining advanced course offerings at local secondary schools;
- (7) Educating students and families about the Network;
- (8) Supporting student registration and enrollment;
- (9) Ensuring Network course participation is aligned with students' Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and personal interests and academic/ career goals;
- (10) Reporting participating students via the Advanced Coursework student data collection process and any other RIDE data reports;
- (11) Ensuring equitable access to and equitable participation in the Network, by addressing the needs of students, teachers, and other program beneficiaries in order to overcome barriers to equitable participation.

RIDE Commitments - General Assurances. The RIDE Advanced Coursework Network shall be responsible for:

- (1) Managing the Advanced Coursework Network and supporting partnerships that provide expanded course opportunities to students across the State;
- (2) Approving course offerings and coordinating details with Network Providers;
- (3) Hosting and coordinating student registration and enrollment through the ACN online portal;
- (4) Facilitating communication among Member Schools, Providers and Students throughout the course period using the tools and reports available in the online portal;
- (5) Reporting final grades through the online portal to Member Schools for inclusion on student transcripts;
- (6) Managing available Advanced Coursework Network funds and associated course fees;
- (7) Evaluating the Advanced Coursework Network program and course offerings; and
- (8) Reporting on and communicating broadly about the Advanced Coursework Network.

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application for LEA participation in the Network is correct and that the applicant agency will comply with all assurances as stated above.

District-level Signatures

Name of LEA Superintendent

LEA Name

Signature of LEA Superintendent

Date

District Point of Contact Name

Title

Email Address

Phone

Signature

Date

School-level Signatures

(Provide copies of this sheet for multiple schools within the district.)

Principal Name

School

Principal Signature

Date

Head of Guidance Name

School

Head of Guidance Signature

Date

School Point of Contact Name

Title

Email Address

Phone

Signature

Date

What is the Advanced Coursework Network?

The Advanced Coursework Network offers advanced coursework options for Rhode Island students with the goal of expanding coursework opportunities that promote college and career readiness. The Advanced Coursework Network will enable students and their families to have additional opportunities to enroll in high value academic- and career-focused courses while they remain enrolled at their public school.

What is the Purpose of Advanced Coursework Network?

The advanced coursework initiative is intended to enrich experiences to help students get a head start on post-secondary success, master the skills required of a lifelong learner, and be prepared for jobs in sectors critical to Rhode Island's future prosperity. The network exists to create opportunities for students to envision, pursue and realize their individualized graduation pathway.

Course Overview:

A number of approved courses by Rhode Island Department of Education allow for students to have access to:

- **Advanced Math and Science Courses:** Courses may include Biochemistry, Anatomy & Physiology, Human Genetics, Calculus, and Trigonometry.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) :** College -level coursework that may offer college credit if successfully completed.
- **Dual enrollment:** Dual enrollment means that a student is enrolled in a secondary school while simultaneously enrolled part time or full-time as a non-matriculating student at a postsecondary institution, such as a community college, college or university.
- **Concurrent enrollment:** Concurrent enrollment means a student is enrolled in a dual enrollment course that is offered at the secondary school and taught by a secondary school teacher who is approved by the postsecondary institution. Upon successful completion of a dual or concurrent enrollment course, students earn credit at both the secondary school and the postsecondary institution offering the course.
- **Career prep courses:** Courses that result in the attainment of an industry-recognized certificate or credential.
- **High school credit bearing courses** that may align to student's individual pathways.

Modalities of Courses:

- **Face to Face:** The traditional classroom or face-to-face instruction is when the instructor and the students are in a place devoted to instruction and the teaching and learning take place at the same time. In this environment classes are scheduled and meet regularly on a specific day and time for a determined period of time.

- **Blended:** formal education program in which a student learns at least in part through online learning, and face to face instruction. This type of learning gives students more control of time, place, path, and/or pace.
- **Fully Online:** This course is offered virtually where students will use the computer to access curriculum. Support services are built into the online program.

Who can enroll?

It is the expectation that every Providence student not only graduate from high school, but does so prepared for college and/or career. The students' local academic achievement and attendance record may be taken into consideration but should not be the sole determinant of a student's eligibility to participate. We encourage all students enrolled in middle and high school to have the opportunity to enroll in advanced network courses if students meet the prerequisites identified by RIDE.

Students with disabilities and English Learners are held to the same eligibility criteria outlined by the LEA. Students with disabilities will receive from the Network Provider the protections, services and accommodations as prescribed by federal and state law.

Support Services:

Special Education

Students with disabilities who meet the prerequisites of a course must be provided reasonable accommodations through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in Advanced Coursework Network courses to ensure the same access as students without disabilities. Courses offered by postsecondary institutions are not required to modify course content or performance expectations that would substantially alter the essential elements of the course. **Not all accommodations available at the high school or middle school may be allowed in college level classes.** With the help of their high school; students receiving special education services and/or reasonable accommodations in high school or middle school should meet with the disability services office of the higher education institution to arrange for necessary accommodations in college courses. Students with an IEP may reconvene their IEP team to discuss the special education services they receive and how those services may support their enrollment in Network courses.

College Crusades: Please note that the College Crusades program will be providing support for students to all crusaders enrolled in the network.

Role of Schools: To help to support and ensure that students have access to ACN opportunities schools are responsible for:

- **Recruitment and Awareness :** Making sure that students and families are aware of the opportunities provided through ACN. Sharing the ACN catalog, and hosting recruitment events and/or family meetings are helpful ways to ensure student participation and family support and understanding.
- **Registration:** Schools are responsible for enrolling students into the selected classes. The process for enrollment has been sent from ride. Although all students that are interested can apply, it is helpful and suggested that schools use the student contract to ensure that the student is aware of his/her responsibilities and are making the best decision when applying to ACN.
- **Contract:** All students that have registered should sign the ACN student contract. The student, parent/guardian, counselors, principals and district will also approve. Signed forms can be scanned and sent to simona.simpsonthomas@ppsd.org

Role of District:

Earnest Cox: Main point of contact for all courses offered through the district. (ACN Provider)

Simona Simpson-Thomas: Main point of contact for all courses offered outside of the district (ACN Membership)

Gina Silvia: Main point of contact overseeing grading and transcript reporting for all courses.

Grading

The Providence Public School District is responsible for reporting and documenting final grades earned from the advanced coursework network to a student's transcript.

Below are the policies for Grade reporting:

- Students will receive high school credit and/or college credit for passing a course through ACN
- This credit will be included on students high school transcript:
 - Course Title / Advanced Course Network/ and Credits Received
- ACN courses will not count towards graduation requirements these courses will serve as a way to enhance the student's' transcript
- ACN courses will not count towards students overall GPA and Class Rank

Materials & Transportation

Textbooks

Districts and families are not responsible for the cost of books. The individual Advanced Network Provider is responsible to provide textbooks if it aligns to the program.

Transportation & Liability:

Students are responsible for selecting courses that fit within their schedule. Transportation to/from the site location is the responsibility of the student and families. It is important that these factors are considered and discussed with students and families when making selections.

Student Expectations:

It is important that students know the benefits and possible consequences for enrollment in the advanced coursework network. Courses and grades taken with the advanced coursework network will be reflected on students high school transcript. All college credit-bearing courses will be reflected on student's college transcripts. Prior to enrolling students should complete the Advanced Coursework Network student contract and turn in to their guidance counselors. (SEE APPENDIX for Student Contract)

Expectations of Providers:

In order to ensure success for all students enrolled in the advanced coursework network initiative it is important that relationships and communication systems exists between providers, students/families, school counselors, and the school district.

Providence Public School District requests that all providers adhere and assist with the following:

- Recruitment: Involvement and engagement by attending our annual school fairs.
- Maintain the integrity and rigor of advanced level work to align with district's curriculum and instruction expectations.

Expectations of Rhode Island Department of Education:

- Provide schools, families and students with the contact information of ACN provider. (Currently available through Ride Website- go sign me up)
- Drop/ Withdraw students who have not attended the program within the first 2 weeks. (Notification will be sent to lead school contacts prior to withdrawing a student)

Advanced Coursework Network Student Contract

The Advanced Coursework Network offers advanced coursework options for Rhode Island students with the goal of expanding coursework opportunities that promote college and career readiness. The Advanced Coursework Network will enable students and their families to have additional opportunities to enroll in high value academic- and career-focused courses while they remain enrolled at their public school.

Students that enroll and pass these courses may earn:

- High school credit
- College credit
- Industry recognized certificate or credential

Please complete and sign the following student contract to understand the expectations of enrolling.

- I am choosing a course that aligns to my individual pathway. This course aligns with my personal goals because: _____
- I understand that I am to adhere to the PPSD student code of conduct as well as all expectations from the partnering school.
- I am aware that the credit I receive in the advanced course network will be reflected on my high school transcript.
- I am aware that failing a course or not attending a course will result in a failing grade.
- I understand that there is an add/drop period for enrollment. If I have signed up for a class and no longer wish to attend I need to notify my counselor or I may be at risk of receiving a failing grade reflected on my high school and/or college transcript.
- Failing grades for college courses will be recorded on my official college transcript.
- I am aware of the times and days that the classes meet and my schedule will allow for me to attend.
- I understand that I am responsible for my own transportation and that attendance to the program matters.
- I am aware that if I am taking an online course that I must have access to a computer. Community resources for free computers are available if I need. (i.e. community libraries)
- I understand that it is my responsibility to advocate when I need additional academic support. I should schedule a meeting with my advanced coursework teacher to get help.

Student Name: _____ ID # _____

School: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Phone: _____

Student Email: _____

Counselor/ Principal Signature: _____

Date: _____

District Approved: _____

Date: _____

Advanced Coursework Network/ Cursos Avanzados
Contrato del Estudiante

The Advanced Coursework Network ofrece opciones de cursos avanzados para los estudiantes de Rhode Island teniendo con la meta de expandir oportunidades de cursos que promueven la preparación a la universidad y profesiones. Advanced Coursework Network les permitirán a los estudiantes y a sus familias contar con oportunidades adicionales para inscribirse en cursos de alto valor académico y orientado a profesiones mientras permanecen inscritos en su escuela pública.

Los estudiantes que se inscriban en estos cursos y los aprueben pueden obtener:

- Créditos de escuela secundaria
- Créditos universitarios
- Credenciales o certificaciones industriales reconocidas

Por favor complete y firme el siguiente contrato del estudiante para entender las expectativas al inscribirse en estos cursos.

- Estoy seleccionando un curso que se alinea con mi trayectoria académica individual. Este curso se alinea con mis metas personales porque:

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- Entiendo que debo seguir al código de conducta estudiantil de PPSD así como todas las expectativas de mi escuela socia.
 - Entiendo que el crédito que reciba en los cursos avanzados aparecerá en mi expediente de escuela secundaria.
 - Entiendo que el reprobador un curso o la falta de asistencia a un curso resultará en una calificación reprobatoria.
 - Entiendo que hay un periodo para agregar o darse de baja de un curso. Después de este periodo se reportará una calificación reprobatoria o que el alumno se dio de baja.
 - Las calificaciones no aprobatorias para los cursos universitarios aparecerán en el expediente oficial de la universidad.
 - Sé los horarios y los días en que las clases están en sesión y mi horario me permitirá asistir.
 - Entiendo que soy responsable de mi propio transporte y que la asistencia al programa cuenta.
 - Entiendo que si estoy tomando un curso en línea debo tener acceso a una computadora. Existen recursos comunitarios gratis de acceso a computadoras si los necesito. (bibliotecas públicas)
 - Entiendo que es mi responsabilidad el dejar saber cuándo necesito apoyo adicional académico. Debo programar una junta con mi profesor de cursos avanzados para recibir ayuda.

Nombre del Estudiante: _____ ID # _____

Escuela: _____

Firma del Estudiante: _____

Firma del Padre/Guardián: _____

Teléfono: _____

Correo Electrónico del Estudiante: _____

Firma del Consejero: _____ Fecha _____

Aprobado por el Distrito: _____ Fecha: _____