All Course Network
Expanding Opportunities

2021-22 Prospective Provider Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

RFP Application is now live:
https://www.ride.ri.gov/StudentsFamilies/EducationPrograms/AdvancedCoursework.aspx

Q: Is this current application due April 7th for all 2021-2022 courses we intend to offer? Not just for summer 2021?
A: The RFP is due April 7 at 5PM for ALL courses for the 2021-22 school year.

Q: 15 course maximum, what does that mean? Collective over the full academic year? Each term/semester? How do I enter the Google Form?
A: Yes, the same course offered 3x counts as 3 courses.

Q: Where do I apply for SAIL?
A: SAIL summer 2020 is now part of ACN Summer 2021 course offerings

Q: Why is ACN shifting to a lottery process?
A: RIDE recognizes that a first-come, first-serve policy isn't always equitable. All courses for the 2021-22 school year will enroll by lottery to increase access, particularly for our most vulnerable students who may not have access to as many course offerings as their peers.

Q: What will change for courses now that ACN will have a lottery for every course?
A: Once the May pre-registration window closes, no pre-registrations will be accepted so the course lotteries can be run. Once the course lotteries are run, students will time to log back in and accept their seats. For those who do not get a seat, they will be assigned a waitlist number. Summer courses will be available for additional registrations by June 28, barring any technical issues related to lottery and course selection processes, but students who choose to pre-register after the lottery will go to the bottom of the waitlist.

Q: With some uncertainty around next year, how would you like providers to identify decisions on modality, especially if hybrid?
A: Yes, submit at hybrid and then submit the location for when the session will be in-person.

Q: What if there is no space confirmed by the time the RFP is due?
A: Enter location as TBD but the ACN team will need this information before the courses are posted for browsing. The ACN team will identify this date to the approved providers.

Q: How much should a provider request for per pupil expenses?
A: There is no guidance provided for per pupil recommendations. RIDE reserves the right to circle back with a provider

Q: Do counselors and principals need to approve enrichment courses?
A: New this cycle, no approval needed for ACN Enrichment courses offered Summer 2021, Fall 2021 or Spring 2022 for all grades, K-12.

Q: Do enrichment courses offer high school credit?
A: No, enrichment are not credit bearing courses. Grades will be given as "Pass" or "Fail" this year.

Q: Does funding cover costs for the need to rent space to deliver a program?
A: Yes it does cover rental costs, provided they are reasonable and those costs should be included in the fixed admin costs.

Q: By when are grades due each semester?
A: The ACN Team will have a timeline prepared in advance of the May registration window.

Q: The material on the RFP states summer starts June 15th. Have any other dates changed?
A: Summer semester technically begins June 15 but the ACN team encourages providers to indicate a start of June 28 or later if at all possible to provide the longest runway for filling seats.

Q: For Enrichment Courses for K-12 , would a start date after the 4th of July work?
A: Yes, any start dates within the semester are acceptable.

Q: Can you give us a specific start date for each session so that we can be clear in the application on how many weeks we will be providing the course for?
A: Start dates are course specific. Some credit bearing courses need to plan for how to offer enough credit hours while enrichment courses have flexibility. **Please note, Team ACN encourages Providers when at all possible to begin their summer courses on or after June 28, begin their fall and year-long courses on or after September 13 and begin spring courses on or after January 3, 2022.**

Q: Will browsing and pre-registration be on the same site?
A: Yes, both will be linked on EnrollRI. Students and elementary and middle school students' parents will still need to log in to their account to register and the link will be readily available on the browsing tool.

Q: Do credit bearing courses have add/drop periods during the semester in which the course is offered?

A: Yes, add/drop periods are designed to provide a chance for students to add or drop a credit bearing course with no penalty to their transcripts. If a student "drops" after the add/drop period, they will receive a "W" on the transcript.

Q: Do enrichments offer add/drop periods?
A: Because enrichment courses are not credit-bearing, they do not offer add/drop. Rosters are set the night prior to the first day the enrichment course meets.

Q: During the school year, can work-based experience take place during the school day for high school students, if approved by the school principal?
A: All ACN activities must take place outside of school hours.

Q: I'm wondering what happens when students sign up for credit-bearing courses during add/drop periods over the summer. Will they still need school approval, when school contacts might not be working?
A: Yes, credit bearing courses do require counselor approval. As much as possible, we encourage students to register during the May registration window, prior to the course lotteries, and while counselors are available to approve them.

Q: Some of our (credit-bearing high school) courses offer stipends for eligible students who meet certain course requirements. Providers have wondered whether it is possible to include these stipends in the ACN budget, or if there's any reason that's not permissible.
A: Stipends are not permissible ACN expenses.

Q: Just to clarify for enrichment programs, once the roster is set, no additional students can enroll after the first day of class?
A: Yes, enrichment classes will have their rosters set upon the first day of the course. No changes can be made once the course has started.

Q: Can we have grade group overlap? Such as for grades 6 - 10, or, middle school and high school?
A: Yes, they can overlap and in the Google form, an applicant will select all the grades that are eligible for the course.

Q: How do I communicate special circumstances for course processes and/or requirements?
A: Use the prerequisites to clarify any expectations for the provider required deadlines and processes.

Q: How many courses can students pre-register for in a semester?
A: Students can pre-register for up XX courses for Summer 2021, 6 courses for Fall 2021 and 6 courses for Spring 2021.

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Q: Do identical programs running concurrently in multiple locations (ie in Newport and in Providence) count as a single course in relation to the total 15 or as a singular program?
A: They count as 2 courses. Multiple sections would each count as a course toward the 15 course maximum as well.

Q: Is there an opportunity for students to register in the fall or is May the only window for registration for the entire year?
A: Yes, students will have a chance to register for fall, year-long and spring courses when pre-registration opens in time for the fall semester.

Q: Might you consider allowing Enrichment students to enroll after Day 1? Sometimes they hear about our course after it has started.. from a classmate or sibling enrolled.
A: At this time, courses that are not credit bearing do not have an add/drop window.

Q: If we submit an application with a maximum number of students and we're requesting a fixed dollar amount, how would that affect if we get less than the maximum number of students?
A: There are two budgets we ask you to submit: per pupil and admin. Identify in per pupil the most and the least number of students you will use to determine when you run the course. For fixed admin., provide the amount you would need to run ALL the courses you've applied for. Conditional approvals will be sent in advance and providers can decide if that is something you can agree to as a provider.

Q: What about for credit courses that would start in the fall or spring? Do the students need to apply in the spring?
A: Yes, all pre-registrations will open in May and we encourage students to register for all semesters in May.

Q: Is the admin cost per provider or per course?
A: The admin is per provider, regardless of number of courses offered.

Q:. If Providers are already in the state PO system, do they need to re-enter their information and include their W-9 in the application?
A: Providers will want to confirm they are registered by checking Ocean State Procures and will still need to submit their W-9 with their application.