

# Senior Year Plus Eligibility Requirements for Private Instruction Students

## Private Instruction (Iowa Code 299A)

Private instruction refers to a student who receives educational instruction outside of the traditional school setting. Private instruction encompasses competent private instruction (CPI), independent private instruction (IPI), home school assistance programs, and non-accredited nonpublic schools.

Competent private instruction (CPI) includes students receiving instruction which meets the requirements stipulated in Iowa Code 299A.1(2)(a) and 299A.3.

Independent private instruction (IPI) includes students receiving instruction which meets the requirements defined in Iowa Code 229A.1(2)(b).

A private instruction comparison chart can be found here and more information on private instruction can be found on the Department's website.

## Dual Enrollment (Iowa Code 299A.8)

Dual enrollment is enrollment of a child who is receiving competent private instruction with a public school district for the purpose of attending one or more courses (not to exceed 75 percent of the school day), participating in extracurricular activities offered by the district, or obtaining special education programs or services.

Students who are dual enrolled to access Senior Year Plus programs must be offered an equal opportunity to participate in the district's Senior Year Plus programs. A district may not set different standards for dual enrolled students to access Senior Year Plus programs, and any standards set must comply with the Senior Year Plus statute.

## Private Instruction and Senior Year Plus (Iowa Code § 299A)

Students under competent private instruction may enroll in Senior Year Plus (SYP) through the public school district in which they are dual enrolled provided the student has the approval of the school board of the school district to register for the postsecondary course and all eligibility requirements are satisfied.

Students of a non-accredited nonpublic school may also enroll in SYP programming. Students from such schools are considered to be under CPI and can enroll in SYP programming through the public school district in which the student resides provided all eligibility requirements are satisfied.

Students under IPI may access concurrent enrollment offerings through the public school district in which the student resides provided all eligibility requirements are satisfied. Independent private instruction students may not enroll in other programs offered through SYP, including postsecondary enrollment options, Advanced Placement®, and/or high school credit career academy courses.

## Eligibility Requirements (281 IAC 22.2)

Students under any form of private instruction must meet all SYP eligibility requirements stipulated by 281 IAC 22.2, which includes demonstrating proficiency in reading, mathematics, and science as evidenced by the student's performance on the statewide assessment.

In lieu of statewide assessment achievement scores, a school district must allow a student under private instruction to demonstrate proficiency in reading, mathematics, and science by any one of the following means:

1. Testing at or above the proficiency cut score on the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress.
2. Submitting a written recommendation of the licensed teacher who supervises the student's instruction.
3. Testing at or above the proficiency cut score on another annual achievement evaluation approved for CPI students; as identified within the Private Instruction Handbook.
4. A composite score of at least 21 on the ACT.
5. A total combined score of at least 141 in critical reading, mathematics, and writing skills on the PSAT.
6. A total combined score of at least 990 in critical reading and mathematics on the SAT.
7. Meeting any other proficiency standard approved by the local school board for all regularly enrolled students.

## Course Load (281 IAC 31.6(2))

Iowa Administrative Code rule 31.6, subrule 31.6(2) states a student under dual enrollment must receive at least one-quarter of their instruction by way of CPI and no more than three-quarters by way of the district's academic programs, which includes SYP programming. This percentage is based on the number of instructional minutes the student receives through the school district. The district through which the student enrolls is responsible for calculating the number of credits in which the student may enroll.

Note that a class period at a high school may not consist of the same number of instructional minutes as the college course, which may alter the number of courses the student may enroll in via SYP. For example, a high school has eight periods in their school day, which means a CPI student may take approximately six periods of instruction through the district and maintain their CPI status. However, a period at the school district might not consist of the same number of minutes as the college course (a four-credit hour college course could equal two class periods at the high school.) Therefore, the CPI student would be able to enroll in only three four-credit college courses through SYP during a given term.

Note: A student under Competent Private Instruction shall meet the same eligibility criteria as students in the school district in which the student is dually enrolled and shall have the approval of the school board in that school district to register for SYP programming.

*Source: Iowa Department of Education Senior Plus Guide (2022)*