

INNOVATIVE PATHWAYS TO GRADUATION PROGRAM

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The Henry County Board of Education believes that students learn differently and face different challenges to obtaining their educational goals. The Board believes that each student deserves the attention and assistance of the school system to achieve future success. The Henry County Innovative Pathways to Graduation (IPG) program is established to serve students whose needs have not been met in the traditional school methods of earning a diploma. The IPG program is designed to address the academic, behavioral and social needs of students who are academically at-risk and who need assistance to become college and career-ready graduates.

Students selected to participate in the IPG program will receive needed programs and services including academic core courses through state-approved distance learning, computer assisted instruction and/or traditional classes. Elective courses may be taken on the high school campus for which the student is zoned.

High schools will maintain an IPG advisory committee composed of a graduation coach, counselor, principal, assistant principal, and appropriate central office staff. The advisory committee will determine the eligibility of students through a referral process and the examination of pertinent student data. Referrals for the program may be made by student request, parent request, and/or teacher recommendation. Data to be considered by the advisory committee when determining a student's eligibility may include attendance records, report cards, transcripts, environment inventories, IEP information if applicable, discipline records, standardized test results, and pertinent demographic information.

Upon acceptance into the program the committee, student and parent(s) will develop a Personalized Education Plan (PEP) for the student. The PEP will include, but not be limited to, an alternative schedule, flexible schedule or traditional schedule. The three scheduling options are described as follows:

1. **Alternative Scheduling** will be made available on the Henry County Virtual Campus. Students may take core courses on this campus and return to the home school for elective courses, if needed. Student may not be required to remain all day. The length and duration of the school day will be determined during the development of the PEP. Students using this scheduling option will not be subject to the same rules and regulations as students placed at the Virtual Campus for disciplinary reasons.
2. **Flexible Scheduling** will be made available for students who take courses at the home high school but who may arrive late or be dismissed early. Flexible scheduling will be determined during the development of the PEP.

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3. **Traditional Scheduling** (regular times, regular day, courses taken at the home high school) may be the option selected for a student if the advisory committee and the student and parent(s) determine this to be the best option during the development of the PEP

Credit Advancement

Students in the IPG program are required to meet all minimum state-mandated requirements for graduation. Students who need credits to satisfy the Alabama State Graduation requirements may accelerate course work to complete a maximum of ten (10) credits per school year through regular classes, summer school and other approved avenues. This may lead to early graduation.

Parent Roles and Responsibility

A parent or legal guardian must attend required advisory committee meetings and must participate in the development of the PEP. Referrals to non-school agencies and other parent support services will be offered to parents/guardians and students on a case-by-case basis as needed.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Student participating in the IPG program may attend, but not participate in any extra-curricular activities in the Henry County Schools. (excluding graduation ceremonies, prom, homecoming activities, and non-academic clubs). To participate in extracurricular activities, the student must be in good standing with the school, and meet all requirements set forth in the student PEP.

Discipline

Students participating in the IPG program are subject to the Henry County School Code of Conduct. All disciplinary actions/steps shall start over upon admission to the IPG. Any disciplinary measure that results in an alternative school assignment shall be for the remainder of the school year.

Attendance

Students participating in the IPG shall follow applicable Board policies regarding attendance. Student taking advantage of before- or after-school sessions shall be allowed no more than two (2) unexcused absences per semester of four (4) unexcused absences per year. Students exceeding these limits shall be removed from the IPG program.

REFERENCE(S):

CODE OF ALABAMA
16-8-8, 16-26-1, AAC §290-1-4-.01

HISTORY:

ADOPTED: JUNE 16, 2009
REVISED: NOVEMBER 10, 2011; JULY 18, 2013; _____
FORMERLY: 4.19; 4.45, JH