

EDUCATION FOR A LIFETIME



"Creating a Commonwealth of Opportunity for all"

Mark R. Warner

Governor's Education for a Lifetime

SENIOR YEAR PLUS EARLY COLLEGE SCHOLARS

Background Information

Purpose: The Early College Scholars program will allow and encourage eligible high school seniors to complete their high school diploma and concurrently earn at least 15 hours of transferable credits toward a college degree, resulting in a more productive senior year and reducing the amount of college tuition for families.

Target Audience: Advanced-level juniors and seniors who are prepared and interested in accelerating their coursework toward a college degree will be encouraged to enroll in the Early College Scholar program.

Brief Description: The *Senior Year Plus Early College Scholars* pathway consists of a Governor's *Early College Scholars* Agreement--the focus of the program--and other components that provide students the structure and support required to accelerate earning college credits at reduced cost.

- The Governor's *Early College Scholars* Agreement will be signed by participating students, their parents/guardians, and the high school principal and guidance counselor. The Agreement sets forth suggested criteria for enrolling students in the program and the expectations and responsibilities of all parties in meeting the terms of the Agreement. A student who signs an Agreement to participate in the *Early College Scholars* program and who graduates from high school and completes all the terms of the Agreement will be recognized as an *Early College Scholar* and receive a Governor's certificate of recognition.
- Students who participate in the *Early College Scholars* program can enroll in the Governor's Virtual Advanced Placement School and will have tuition and AP examination fees reimbursed by the Department of Education for any Virtual Advanced Placement School course taken.

Eligibility Criteria: Encouraging and selecting students to participate in the *Early College Scholars* program will be an important function of parents, principals, teachers, and guidance counselors. For the graduating class of 2005, students should:

- Have a "B" average or better

- Be pursuing an Advanced Studies Diploma
- Be completing or have completed college level course work (i.e., Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Cambridge, or dual enrollment) that will earn at least 15 transferable college credits

GOVERNOR'S *EARLY COLLEGE SCHOLARS* AGREEMENT

The responsibilities of each party are outlined herein and the corresponding signature assures acceptance of responsibility of each party.

The student agrees to:

- Earn an Advanced Studies Diploma with a Governor's Seal;
To receive a Governor's seal, students must:
 - Complete the requirements for the Advanced Studies Diploma;
 - Earn a "B" average or higher; and
 - Successfully complete at least one Advanced Placement course (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), or one college-level course for credit
- Earn at least 15 transferable college credits while enrolled in high school. College credits toward completion of this Agreement will be considered earned by:
 - Completing dual enrollment/dual credit courses and earning a "C" or better in the courses
 - Completing advanced placement courses i.e., AP, IB or Cambridge **and**
 - Scoring a "3" or higher on the AP examinations **or**
 - Scoring a "4" or higher on any form of the IB examinations **or**
 - Scoring a "D" or better on the Cambridge examinations
 - Earning college credits by passing College Level Examination Program (CLEP) examinations
 - Completing college-level courses and documenting credit awarded
- Apply and be accepted to a college or university

Student Signature

Date

The parent/guardian agrees to:

- Support and monitor student's academic work and progress in school, particularly as it relates to fulfillment of the requirements for the Governor's *Early College Scholars* Agreement.

I understand that the actual number of transferable college credits awarded depends on the criteria of the admitting college or university.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

The high school agrees to:

- Provide the student opportunities to access college-level courses and/or advanced placement courses needed to fulfill this agreement.
- Provide the counseling services needed to fulfill the requirements of the Governor's *Early College Scholars* Agreement, including assisting students in developing a program of study.
- Provide the Virginia Department of Education with data regarding participation and completion of the Governor's *Early College Scholars* program.

High School Principal Signature

Date

High School Guidance Counselor

Date