

Ohio Core Opt-Out Provisions Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. When might a student and the student's parent, guardian or custodian provide consent for the student to graduate without completing the Ohio core curriculum prescribed in ORC§ 3313.603(C)?

A signed written statement may be filed for a student who enters ninth grade on or after July 1, 2010 and before July 1, 2014, and has attended high school for two years.

2. What would a written consent document look like or include?

No specific written consent form is required. Written consent could be on a form provided by the district or it could be in a format developed by the student and the parent, guardian or custodian.

The written consent should be dated and include the names and signatures of the student and parent, guardian or custodian. The consent should also acknowledge that 1) one consequence of not completing the Ohio core curriculum is ineligibility to enroll in most state universities without further coursework and 2) the student must complete the alternative curriculum established by the school that includes at a minimum the curriculum required in [ORC §3313.603\(B\)](#).

OSBA, the Ohio School Board's Association, has a [sample consent document](#) to assist districts and schools regarding consent.

3. Are there consequences for students that choose the Opt-Out provision?

Yes. Students who earn a high school diploma under the Opt-Out provision will be prohibited from attending most state universities in Ohio without further coursework. Exceptions include Central State, Shawnee State and Youngstown State Universities. Please see [ORC §3345.06](#) for additional information. Those Opt-Out students who might seek a career in the military should check with their local recruiting offices to determine if there might be any impact on enlistment.

4. Under what circumstances might a student wish to pursue the Opt-Out provision?

The Opt-Out was designed to be temporary and yet provide some students with a period of transition to the more rigorous curriculum requirements of the Ohio core. Some students may not feel adequately prepared for the more rigorous requirements; specifically four units of mathematics that must include Algebra II or its equivalent and a unit of advanced science in addition to a unit of physical science and a unit of life science. Other students may feel that their career or college goals might not require the more rigorous curriculum of the Ohio core. (Note: While an Individual Career Plan would be required for a student pursuing a Career Technical Education (CTE) business or industry credential under the Opt-Out provision, some CTE programs might recommend or even require the more rigorous curriculum of the Ohio core.)

5. What is an ICP (Individual Career Plan)? Where can I find an example of an ICP?

A student and the student's parent, guardian or custodian and a representative of the student's high school shall jointly develop an [Individual Career Plan \(ICP\)](#) for the student that specifies the student's matriculating to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business and industry credential, or entering an apprenticeship.

It is highly recommended that ICPs should address the following:

- Evidence of collaborative development (school, student and parental signatures);
- A yearly academic/credit timeline that could include courses, credit flex and other alternative learning opportunities;
- Timelines for college and career exploration activities. These should support the student's goals related to a two-year degree program, acquiring a business and industry credential or entering an apprenticeship;
- Assessment plan including any needed intervention or remediation;
- School, community and personal activities that support college and career goals;
- Schedule/timeline for plan review and revision;
- Student portfolio (documents, transcripts, recommendations, honors and awards, etc.);
- Other – as deemed appropriate to meet program and student needs.

Districts and schools shall develop and use an ICP format that best meets the needs of the district/school while providing adequate planning and guidance to meet the individual needs of students.

The Ohio Department of Education's Career-Tech website provides model ICP components. Search keywords: [Career Development or OCIS](#).

The Ohio Department of Education's guidance for Families website provides resources to help students and families plan for careers and college years. Search Keywords: [Career and College](#).

[Career Exploration-Ohio Labor Market Information](#) provides a number of links to valuable information to help students explore careers and related educational pathways. Students and school counselors can utilize the Explore Careers page to obtain career and education information.

The [National Dropout Prevention Network](#) provides knowledge and promotes networking for researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and families to increase opportunities for youth in at-risk situations to receive the quality education and services necessary to successfully graduate from high school.

The [National Alternative Education Association](#) also offers exemplary practices in alternative education.

6. How long will the Opt-Out provision be available?

Four cohorts of entering ninth graders will be eligible to pursue the Opt-Out provision. Unless the provision is extended by legislative action, it will end with students who enter ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2014.

7. Can students change their minds about opting out? What if students with signed written consent for the Opt-Out provision choose to complete the Ohio Core requirements?

Students who complete the Ohio core requirements along with any additional local requirements should be permitted to graduate without any of the consequences of the Opt-Out provision. All students are encouraged to complete the Ohio Core curriculum requirements. The development of an ICP may actually help students prepare a path to graduation that supports completion of the Ohio core curriculum.

8. What are the responsibilities of the district or school?

- A representative from the high school must collaborate with the student and parent(s) to develop an ICP.
- The high school must provide counseling and support for the student and his ICP throughout the remainder of the student's high school experience. Such counseling and support are keys to the student's successful graduation and preparation for a successful transition to the workforce or post-secondary education.
- The district must adopt the Opt-Out curriculum requirements that students must complete in order to graduate without completing the Ohio core. The curriculum must be at least that required in 3313.603(B). Each district, however, does have the authority to require an even more rigorous minimum curriculum under [3313.603\(E\)](#). OSBA has posted guidance for districts regarding the [Opt-Out curriculum](#).