

Dropout Prevention and Program Recovery Waiver Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who can apply for a waiver?

Local Education Agencies (LEAs) can apply for a waiver to operate a program to enable students to graduate in lieu of meeting the Ohio Core curriculum.

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

Districts and schools seeking a Dropout Prevention and Recovery Waiver shall provide evidence that the program develops 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*, *OCIS*.

[Ohio Career Sim](#) provides an interactive experience that helps fuel students' career aspirations and educational pathways.

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.

3. What are the requirements for a student to be enrolled in a Dropout Prevention and Program Recovery Waiver program?

Requirements are specified in [ORC 3313.603](#) division F. Two requirements are noted below:

- Students are not younger than 16 and not older than 21 years of age;
- Students at the time of enrollment either, or both, are at least one grade level behind their cohort age groups or experience crises that interfere with their academic progress such that they are prevented from continuing their traditional program.

4. How long will this waiver remain active?

The waiver will remain active for four years from the date of approval, until such time as the Office of Educational Reform (OER) receives notice from a district or school that the program no longer qualifies as a dropout prevention and recovery program under criteria established by ORC Section 3313.603 or until OER determines that existing factors disqualify the program from waiver eligibility.

5. Can an ESC (Educational Service Center) apply?

An Educational Service Center may apply for a waiver on behalf of the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) it serves. Each district shall submit the governing board resolution document.

6. What if students in the waived program choose to complete the Ohio Core requirements?

Students are not required to remain in a waived program. Students are encouraged to complete the Ohio Core curriculum requirements.