



## **ACN Technical Assistance Session for Providers**

March 4, 2020

**Q1. Can you please provide the application in PDF form so we can see all questions prior to completing the application?**

RIDE response: PDF has been created and posted to ACN website.

**Q2. There are four ACN course types. Can a single Provider submit an application that includes more than one course type?**

RIDE response: Yes, Providers may include as many course types as they wish in their applications.

**Q3. Courses will be assigned a tier at the end of each cycle. How long will the tier be posted? What is the value of keeping the tier posted after a course has ended?**

RIDE response: Posting course tier designations reflects an effort to increase transparency re: how the course has performed in previous years. A course's tier posting will be removed at the end of each cycle only if the course will not be offered in a subsequent cycle. The tier designations of courses that are repeated in subsequent years will remain posted, so that the public has a historical record of the course's performance in previous cycles.

**Q4. Can you please clarify in what way(s) tier designations will be used to determine performance based pay?**

RIDE response: RIDE is raising course accountability requirements and will roll out performance based pay in the 2021/2022 cycle. Tier 1 courses will receive a bonus from RIDE; Tier 2 courses will be level funded, and payment for Tier 3 courses will be reduced by a predetermined amount. Additional details will be shared in February of 2021 when the next year's ACN application goes live.

**Q5. Will transparency also increase related to school members' participation and performance?**

RIDE response: Yes, data re: participating schools, school-specific # of approved students, and # of students who complete courses will be made public on the ACN website.

**Q6: If a Provider decides not to offer a Tier 3 course during the next cycle, does that course's Tier 3 rating impact payment for other courses the Provider offers during this cycle?**

RIDE response: No, performance-based payments are tied to specific courses, not the entire Provider portfolio. Performance-based pay will not be rolled out until the AY2021/2022 cycle.

**Q7: What expenses are included in administrative costs versus the per pupil amount?**

RIDE response: We're not clear about what goes into each category at this point. RIDE's inclusion of all semesters in one cycle is a significant change, as is requesting a fixed administrative cost for a Provider's

portfolio. We cannot predict what applications and related costs we will receive in the next month; it is very likely that we will reach out to applicants to discuss this if we need to adjust per pupil amount and administrative costs from each Provider. These conversations will include both payment categories and also allocation of costs for each.

**Q8: Will the number of absences associated with dropping a student be added to the application so that the provider can determine the number?**

RIDE response: We are working with other members of RIDE attendance team to determine what makes most sense, while trying to adhere to the state's dual enrollment regulations. Number of instructional hours is included in the application; we chose not to ask about the number of absences issue as we anticipated that attendance expectations would vary across providers. At this point, our best guess is that attendance team will come back with a % based on the number of instructional hours Providers include in their applications. Whatever is decided will be included in the Provider MOAs.

**Q9: The per pupil costs are cost-specific, and the administrative cost is fixed across courses. Where do we include this in the application?**

RIDE response: The fixed administrative cost will be moved to the Overview section of the application; the updated Google application will be posted on the ACN website today.

**Q10: Applicants will request a maximum student number for each course, and RIDE will subsequently approve an approved maximum. Can seats and their associated \$ be re-allocated to other courses if a class isn't resonating for students and enrollment doesn't approach the approved maximum?**

RIDE response: RIDE will no longer re-allocate seats across the Provider's portfolio. We've learned that this process presents myriad challenges for our finance team and also works against our goal of streamlining ACN. For this reason, we've removed the minimum seat stipulation and support Providers running courses with lower student numbers, if they choose to do so. We will try this during the 2020-2021 cycle and debrief with Providers next year to determine if we need to further refine. We are hoping the mandatory two-week Add/Drop period will allow Providers to recruit to capacity.

**Q11: If there is a waitlist for a semester-long course that has reached maximum enrollment, can students remain on the waitlist until the course is offered?**

RIDE response: Yes, Providers may recruit from the Waitlist up until the end of the two week Add/Drop period.

**Q12: We understand that we can't add students outside of the Add/Drop period and students may enroll in a maximum of two courses during any given semester. Is there a limit regarding the number of waitlists a student can be on?**

RIDE response: The ACN platform will preclude students from registering for more than two courses, however, they can be on as many wait lists as they want. For example, if a student is approved for one class but applied for three, they will remain on the wait list for other two classes. During add drop period, they can enroll in another class. Moving forward, we may be able to include the capacity for students to prioritize waitlisted courses, however, this feature is not available at this time.

**Q13: We are a Provider with multiple subcontractors. Should the fixed administrative cost include both our administrative and our providers' costs?**

RIDE response: It is up to each Provider to determine what makes the most sense for them. RIDE will likely be reaching out to applicants regarding the budget items.

**Q14: Are Providers required to wait until the end of the year to receive the fixed administrative payment if this payment is built into the per pupil cost?**

RIDE response: Per pupil payments are scheduled throughout a course; the administrative payment is at the end.

**Q15: Will all postsecondary courses with three credits be included in RI secondary schools' accountability ratings, even if the course's schedule is atypical?**

RIDE response: Any RIDE approved three credit dual enrollment course will count for school accountability, regardless of schedule.

**Q16: We do not see a field in the application for a primary contact for each course.**

RIDE response: This field will be added to the application today. Course-specific primary contacts will also be asked to provide their email, and will be given platform log in privileges.