# Frequently Asked Questions

## Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP)
### June 10, 2019

**Application Process**

**Question – Is there a deadline for submitting the application?**

Answer – Although the application may be submitted at any time, we request school districts give us a minimum of 30 days for application review. School districts must receive approval from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) before initiating the program. The TEA will notify each applicant of its approval status to operate an OFSDP.

**Question – Does a district or charter school have to reapply each year to participate in the program?**

Answer – Yes – An application must be completed and submitted annually in order to participate in the OFSDP. The board of trustees of a school district or charter school must approve the application. The board must include the OFSDP as an item on a regular agenda for the board meeting providing options for public input concerning the proposed application before applying to operate an OFSDP.

**Question – Where do I send the completed application?**

Answer – Please send the application to:

OPflex@tea.texas.gov

Optional Flexible School Day Program
State Funding Division
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue Austin, TX 78701

**Eligibility**

**Question – Can all grade levels participate?**

Answer – A student in any grade level is eligible to participate in an OFSDP if the student:

- is at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by the TEC, §29.081;

- is attending a campus implementing an innovative redesign with an approved campus turnaround plan in accordance with 39.107;

- is attending a community-based dropout recovery education program, as defined by the TEC, §29.081(e-1) and (e-2);

- is attending an approved early college high school program, as defined by the TEC, §29.908;

- as a result of attendance requirements under the TEC, §25.092, will be denied credit for one or more classes in which the student has been enrolled.

**Question – Can a student attend class at any time?**

Answer – A student must receive instruction in the OFSDP at least 45 minutes on a given day for instructional contact time to be recorded.

**Question – If a student is enrolled in the OFSDP are they eligible to participate in UIL competitions?**

Answer – A student enrolled in an OFSDP program may participate in a competition or other activity sanctioned or conducted under the authority of the UIL only if he or she meets all UIL eligibility criteria.

## Funding

**Question – When does the school district receive funding for OFSDP attendance?**

Answer – The State Funding Division will use the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) attendance data to calculate the amount of state funding earned for participation in the OFSDP. Districts will receive funding through the FSP settle-up process which occurs in September of the following school year for school year OFSDP and in April of the following school year for credit recovery OFSDP.

**Question – Is the OFSDP a grant program?**

Answer – The OFSDP is **not a competitive grant program**. The OFSDP provides an alternate method of attendance accounting.

**Question – Can a school district or charter school incorporate the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN) program within the OFSDP?**

Answer – No – TxVSN program instruction has different attendance accounting rules. OFSDP funding is based on the total eligible minutes of instructional *contact* time each student receives.

**Question – How are OFSDP Students coded for student attendance accounting purposes?**

Answer - Per the [Student Attendance Accounting Handbook](#), Section 3.2.1 ADA Eligibility Coding, OFSDP Students should be code 7 or code 8.

**ADA Code 7** – Eligible Alternative Attendance Program Participation
Code 7 applies to a student who is eligible to participate in and is enrolled and provided instruction in an alternative attendance program, such as the Optional Flexible School Day Program (OFSDP) or the High School Equivalency Program (HSEP).

**ADA Code 8** – Ineligible Alternative Attendance Program Participation
Code 8 applies to a student who is enrolled and provided instruction in an alternative attendance program, such as the OFSDP or HSEP, but is ineligible to participate in the program.

**Question – Can a student earn more than the equivalent of one ADA in a 12 month period?**

Answer –     No.  For funding purposes, attendance for a student for a 12-consecutive-month school year cannot exceed the equivalent of one student in ADA with perfect attendance.

Instructional time for the OFSDP is funded at the same rate under the FSP formulas as attendance for ADA in the traditional program; however, a single course cannot accrue more than 10,800 minutes, and a full-time equivalent student is expected to have a total of 43,200 minutes of instruction per year to generate one ADA.

For an eligible OFSDP student attending summer school OFSDP courses for credit recovery, funding is limited to only funding for the attendance necessary for the student to recover class credit.

**Question – How do districts make sure that student does not earn more than the equivalent of one ADA in a 12 month period?**

Answer –     Per the [Student Attendance Accounting Handbook](#), section 11.6.3 Participation in the OFSDP and the Regular Attendance Program.

Students **must not** be simultaneously enrolled in the OFSDP and the traditional attendance program, in terms of how the student's attendance is reported in the attendance accounting system. However, it is acceptable for a student to earn both traditional attendance and OFSDP attendance if the student's enrollment status changes from a traditional program to the OFSDP or if the status changes back to a traditional program from the OFSDP.

The sum of traditional ADA earned and OFSDP ADA earned must not exceed one ADA total.  Districts should use the following formula to ensure that students do not generate more than one ADA total.

**Maximum OFSDP minutes a student is eligible = (180 - Traditional Days Present x 240)**

**Question – Where can I get more information or get assistance?**

Answer – Please see the OFSDP webpage for information resources and contact information:

https://tea.texas.gov/Finance_and_Grants/State_Funding/Additional_Finance_Resources/Optional__Flexible_School_Day_Program/