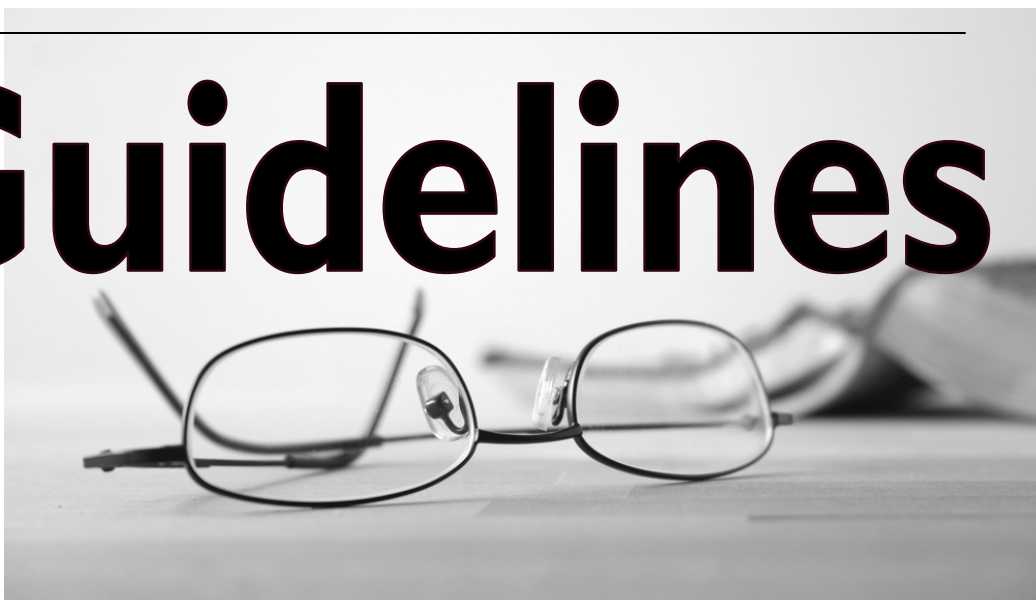


Administrative

Guidelines



INTRODUCTION

The West Virginia EDGE was established in 2001. EDGE is an acronym for Earn a Degree – Graduate Early and is a by-product of the seamless curriculum initiative that focuses on curriculum alignment between education levels. The alignment process identifies curriculum gaps, eliminates curriculum duplication and sets curriculum mastery levels to pre-determined standards.

EDGE was created to address certain areas of curriculum duplication and at the same time provide incentives for more students to continue their education beyond high school. Students who participate in the EDGE initiative can earn community and technical college credit, free of charge, for the duplicated secondary and postsecondary courses identified during the curriculum alignment process.

In the report, *Gathering Momentum: Building the Learning Connection Between Schools and Colleges*, compiled by The Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media, The Institute for Educational Leadership, and The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, the following recommendations based on research and review of relevant literature were set forth for school systems:

- provide all students with information about and access to courses that will prepare them to meet college-level standards,
- analyze placement exams developed by individual campuses, departments or faculty members for reliability, authenticity, and understanding,
- use assessments as diagnostic tools,
- expand successful concurrent enrollment programs that include all students, not just traditionally “college bound” students, and
- align senior year secondary courses with the first year college courses.

The West Virginia EDGE initiative emulates these recommendations and is focused on connecting public schools with higher education for all students.

The goals of the West Virginia EDGE initiative are

1. to provide an opportunity for all students to establish a college transcript while in high school,
2. to increase the numbers of students attending community and technical colleges, and
3. to establish a pathway that allows students to obtain an associate degree one year after high school or along with a high school diploma.

GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR THE EDGE INITIATIVE

To be eligible for inclusion in the EDGE initiative:

High School Guidelines

Participating schools will

1. Determine which EDGE courses will be offered.
2. Provide all students the opportunity to enroll in EDGE courses.
3. Provide teachers an opportunity to attend the one hour state-led EDGE orientation.

Faculty Guidelines

Participating teachers will

1. Attend a one hour state-led EDGE orientation.
2. Use the WV Content Standards and Objectives (CSOs) as the course syllabi and use the classroom adopted textbook as a reference tool.
3. Utilize an end of course or semester exam.
4. Complete the EDGE Assignment of College Credit Form listing the students who only scored 75 or higher, their WVEIS number and/or social security number, their home address, graduation date, and final exam score shown as a percentage.
5. Submit EDGE Assignment of College Credit Form with an answer key version of the final exam to the EDGE Site Coordinator or Tech Prep Coordinator following the procedure determine by your consortium.

Student Guidelines

To be eligible to receive credit in the EDGE initiative, a high school student must

1. Enroll in an eligible EDGE high school course (teacher has attended a one hour EDGE orientation session).
2. Pass the high school course and score a 75 percent or higher on the course final exam.

Awarding of College Credits

1. Participating community and technical colleges identify the high school courses for which they will award college equivalent credit upon successful completion.
2. Each community and technical college determines the number of credit hours to be awarded.
3. An EDGE transcript is generated upon successful completion of the high school EDGE course and is held by the Community and Technical College System of WV central office until the student enrolls in the college and requests a transcript.

LOGISTICS

1. EDGE teachers should download the newest version of the EDGE Handbook, Class Enrollment Form, and Assignment of College Credit Form annually from the Tech Prep website, located at www.wvtechprep.wvnet.edu/downloads.htm.
2. EDGE teachers will utilize an end of course or semester final exam. The exam can be teacher developed or if teachers want to use the available IPSI final exams, they can request them by calling 304.558.2411 or emailing taylor@hepc.wvnet.edu.
3. The EDGE Class Enrollment Form needs to be completed during the first three weeks and mailed to the address below or faxed to 304.558.1646.
4. When students successfully complete the EDGE class and final exam with a 75% or better, the EDGE teacher needs to complete the EDGE Assignment of College Credit Form. This form should be submitted with an answer key version of the final exam to the EDGE Site Coordinator or Tech Prep Coordinator following the procedure determine by your consortium. This information will be inputted and forwarded to the appropriate college upon receiving the student's transcript request.
5. An EDGE transcript will be generated for the student by the Community and Technical College System of WV central office when requested by the student online, at a participating institution, or by contacting our office directly.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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