

**SERIES 300  
INSTRUCTION**

343.42

**EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM AND START COLLEGE NOW PROGRAM**

**Early College Credit Program Overview**

The Early College Credit Program (ECCP) replaces Youth Options beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. The ECCP provides eligible students in grades 9 through 12 an opportunity to take courses at eligible institutions of higher education while in high school, including during a summer semester or session. High school students may participate in the ECCP in accordance with state law, administrative rules, and established procedures. An eligible District student may enroll in a participating institution of higher education, including an institution within the University of Wisconsin System, a tribally controlled college, and a private, nonprofit institution of higher education located in Wisconsin, for the purpose of taking one or more nonsectarian courses through the ECCP.

A student participating in the ECCP may take a post-secondary course during or after regular school hours if available, in accordance with state law and regulations. The District shall pay for no more than the equivalent of a combined 18 post-secondary semester credits (4 ½ high school credits) per student for courses taken through the ECCP and the Start College Now Program.

The Board of Education (Board) hereby authorizes and instructs the District Administrator or his/her designee to make the required determination as to whether a course proposed to be taken through the ECCP is comparable to a course offered in the District, whether it satisfies graduation requirements, and what, if any, high school credits will be awarded to the student. The District shall notify the student in writing of its determinations before the beginning of the semester in which the student will be enrolled. If the student disagrees with the District's decision regarding comparability of courses, satisfaction of high school graduation requirements or the number of high school credits to be awarded, the student may appeal the District's decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction within 30 calendar days after the decision.

The Board is not responsible for transporting students to or from post-secondary courses under this program. The parent/guardian of a student taking a post-secondary course for high school credit may apply to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for reimbursement of the cost of transporting the student between the high school and the institution of higher education or technical college.

**Early College Credit Program Payment**

A student will not be responsible for any portion of tuition for courses taken for high school credit, provided that the course is not comparable to a course offered in the District, and provided that the student successfully completes the course. A student will be responsible for 25% of the actual cost of tuition (as determined under Wis. Stat. § 118.55(5)(d)) when a student takes a course only for post-secondary credit, provided that the course is not comparable to a course offered in the District, and provided that the student successfully completes the course. In such an instance, the student or his/her parent(s)/guardian(s) shall pay the amount for which the student is responsible to the District by personal check within 10 calendar days before the first day of the semester in which the course takes place. The District will, in turn, make the required

tuition payment to the institution of higher education on the student's behalf, consistent with applicable law. The District shall waive the student's responsibility for tuition costs if the Department of Public Instruction determines that the cost of the course would pose an undue financial burden on the student's family.

If a student receives a failing grade in a course or fails to complete the course, the student's parent/guardian or the student, if an adult, will be responsible for reimbursing the District for the amount paid on the student's behalf by the District, if the District makes such a request. If this reimbursement is requested but not made, the student on whose behalf the payment was made will be ineligible for any further participation in the ECCP, unless the District, in its sole discretion, decides to withdraw the request for reimbursement.

### **Early College Credit Program Procedures**

A student who intends to enroll in an institution of higher education under this program shall notify the Board no later than March 1 if the student intends to enroll in the fall semester, and no later than October 1 if the student intends to enroll in the spring semester. The notice shall include the titles of the courses in which the student intends to enroll and the number of credits of each course, and shall specify whether the student will be taking the courses for high school or post-secondary credit. Students shall also be subject to any deadlines imposed by an institution of higher education.

A student may not participate in the ECCP if the student is currently attending a technical college under Wis. Stat. § 38.12(14) or Wis. Stat. § 118.15(1)(b).

A student shall submit an application to the institution of higher education in the school semester preceding the student's intended enrollment. The student shall indicate on the application whether he or she will be taking the course or courses for high school credit or post-secondary credit or both, if applicable. The student shall also specify on the application that, if he or she is admitted, the institution of higher education may disclose the student's grades, the courses that he or she is taking, and his or her attendance record to the school in which the student is enrolled.

If a student is not admitted to attend the course that he or she specified in the notice required above, but is admitted to attend a different course, the student shall immediately notify the District, and the District shall inform the student of the District's determinations (relating to comparability, graduation requirements, and high school credits) as soon as practicable.

The District will provide all students enrolled in 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th grades with information about the ECCP annually by October 1.

### **Start College Now Program Overview**

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, the Start College Now Program provides students with the opportunity to attend technical college courses, in accordance with state law, administrative rules, and established procedures.

Upon a student's request and with the written approval of the student's parent or guardian, any student who satisfies the following criteria may apply to attend a technical college for the purpose of taking one or more courses:

1. The student has completed the 10th grade;
2. The student is in good academic standing;
3. The student notifies the District of his or her intent to attend a technical college under this program by March 1 if the student intends to enroll in the fall semester and by October 1 if the student intends to enroll in the spring semester;
4. The student is not a child at risk, as defined in Wis. Stat. § 118.153(1)(a); and
5. The student is not prohibited under Wis. Stat. § 118.55(7t)(c) from participating in the program.

The District may refuse to permit a student to attend a technical college under this program if the student is a child with a disability (as defined in Wis. Stat. § 115.76(5)) and the District determines that the cost to the District would impose an undue financial burden on the District.

If a student attends a technical college under this program, the technical college shall ensure that the student's educational program meets the high school graduation requirements under Wis. Stat. § 118.33.

### **Start College Now Program Enrollment Procedures**

At least 30 calendar days before the beginning of the technical college semester in which the student will be enrolled, the District shall notify the student, in writing, if a course in which the student will be enrolled does not meet the high school graduation requirements and whether the course is comparable to a course offered in the school district. If the student disagrees with the District's decision regarding comparability of courses or satisfaction of high school graduation requirements, the student may appeal the decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction within 30 calendar days after the decision.

A student is eligible to receive both high school and technical college credit for courses successfully completed at the technical college.

The District is not responsible for transporting a student attending a technical college under this program to or from the technical college that the student is attending. Students may apply to the Department of Public Instruction for transportation aid reimbursement.

### **Start College Now Program Payment**

The District shall pay to the District Board an amount equal to the cost of tuition, course fees, and books for those courses taken under this program for high school credit, except that the District is not responsible for payment for any courses that are comparable to courses offered in the District. If a student receives a failing grade in a course or fails to complete the course, the student's parent/guardian or the student, if an adult, will be responsible for reimbursing the District for the amount paid on the student's behalf by the District, if the District makes such a request. If this reimbursement is requested but not made, the student on whose behalf the payment was made will be ineligible for any further participation in the Start College Now Program, unless the District, in its sole discretion, decides to withdraw the request for reimbursement.

The District shall pay for no more than the equivalent of a combined 18 post-secondary semester credits per student for courses taken under the Early College Credit Program and/or Wis. Stat. § 38.12(14)(d).

### **Administrative Rules**

The District Administrator is authorized to enact administrative rules as needed to ensure the District's compliance with any applicable law or state administrative rule relating to the ECCP and the Start College Now Program.

Legal References:       Section 118.55 Wisconsin Statutes

Date of Adoption:       January 24, 1996

Dates of Revision:      November 18, 2009 (formerly Youth Options)  
                                  March 21, 2018