

TECHNICAL COLLEGE COURSE PROGRAM (“Start College Now”)

343.45

High school students in the 11th grade or 12th grade who meet the eligibility requirements defined in applicable statutes, regulations, and District policies, and who submit timely and complete applications and notices, may be permitted to enroll in one or more courses at a technical college through the “Start College Now” program. In addition to meeting other eligibility requirements, a student who wishes to enroll in a technical college course under this policy must submit a completed “Start College Now” application form to the District by March 1 if the student intends to take the college course during the next fall semester, and by October 1 if the student intends to take the college course during the next spring semester.

The high school principal or an administrative-level designee shall be responsible for (1) ensuring that the District appropriately processes requests/applications for the “Start College Now” program; and (2) except for refusal of permission to take a course that is based on an undue financial burden, determining whether the District will approve individual applications and pay for specific courses based on the criteria established in state law, any applicable state regulations, and applicable District policies and procedures.

The authority of the program administrator(s) includes, but is not limited to, the authority to make or approve the following determinations on behalf of the District:

1. Whether a student meets the minimum eligibility criteria established in state law;
2. Whether a proposed course is comparable to a course already offered in the District;
3. Whether the student will be eligible to receive high school credit for the successful completion of a proposed course and the amount of credit (if any); and
4. Whether the proposed course and any resulting credit meets any of the District’s high school graduation requirements.

While the District may refuse to allow a student with a disability to attend a technical college through the “Start College Now” program if the costs related to any special services required for the student would impose an undue financial burden on the District, the determination of an undue financial burden shall be made or directly approved by the Director of Finance and Operations.

Responsibility for Costs; Limitations on District Payments

To the extent required by state law, the District shall pay the costs associated with students’ enrollment in a technical college under this policy if the course is

eligible for high school credit toward a high school graduation requirement and the course is not comparable to a course offered in the District. Limitations on the District's responsibility for payment include the following:

1. The District shall pay only such tuition, fees, and course materials costs as are required by law. If the District is required to pay the technical college for the cost of a book or similar resource that is not a one-time use item, the student may be required to return the resource(s) to the District upon completion of the course.
2. The District shall pay for no more than the equivalent of a combined total of 18 postsecondary semester credits per student for any courses that are taken through the "Start College Now" program or the Early College Credit Program. However, the limitation on total paid credits does not prohibit a student from (1) taking other courses through a technical college where the District has authorized the coursework under a separate program or separate source of authority; or (2) taking other high school courses offered by the District that may result in eligibility for post-secondary credit(s).
3. The District shall only pay for courses that are successfully completed. If a student receives a failing grade in a course or fails to complete the course, the student's parent or guardian or the student, if an adult, is responsible for reimbursing the District for the tuition, fees, and other costs paid by the District. If this reimbursement is not made upon request, the student is ineligible for any further participation in the "Start College Now" program and the Early College Credit Program. However, the student or the student's parent or guardian may submit a written request asking the Director of Finance and Operations to waive this repayment obligation if the principal determines, at his or her discretion, that extenuating circumstances led to the unsuccessful completion of the relevant course(s) and repayment would impose an unreasonable and undue financial burden on the student or the student's family.
4. Unless otherwise required by law, the District is not responsible for providing transportation to technical college courses taken under this policy or paying for transportation-related costs.

Good Academic Standing

Solely for purposes of determining a student's eligibility to enroll in a course at a technical college under this policy, "good academic standing" in the District means that the student has a cumulative high school grade point average of at least 2.0 at the time of the determination.

Courses that Satisfy High School Graduation Requirements

The District's determinations of whether a proposed course satisfies a high school graduation requirement, whether completion of the course will result in the awarding of high school credit, and the amount of such credit (if any), shall be made with reference to the District's current high school graduation requirements policy and by applying the same method and criteria that the District applies to its own course offerings and to other outside courses that are submitted for a similar assessment (e.g., by students who are transferring into the District).

In order for a student to receive high school credit for a course taken at a technical college under this policy, the student must complete the course and receive a passing grade, as determined by the technical college. In addition, no credit toward satisfaction of a high school graduation requirement shall be available for a course that substantially repeats the same content for which the student has already taken a course and already received high school credit.

Course Comparability

For purposes of determining whether a course that a student wishes to take through the "Start College Now" program is comparable to a course offered by the District, the District shall apply the standards found in [PI 40.06\(2\)](#) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, as such standards have been defined for the state's Early College Credit Program.

Appeals of District Decisions

A student or his/her parent or guardian may submit a written request for the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, or the Director of Student Services if the student is a student with a disability, to reconsider the principal's decision related to a student's participation in the "Start College Now" program, if an applicant for the program disagrees with a District decision regarding comparability of courses or the satisfaction of high school graduation requirements, state law provides that the applicant may appeal the District's decision to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction within 30 days after the District's decision.

Legal References:

Wisconsin Statutes

Section 38.12(14)	[attendance at technical college under the technical college course program, also known as the "Start College Now" Program]
Section 115.385(4)	[parent notification of educational options]
Section 118.15(1)(b)	[attendance at a technical college in lieu of high school or on a part-time basis by a child 16 years of age or over and a child at risk]
Section 118.15(1)(d)	[discretionary program and curriculum modifications]

[Section 118.153\(1\)\(a\)](#) [definition of a child at risk of not graduating from high school]
[Section 118.33](#) [high school graduation requirements]
[Section 118.55](#) [early college credit program]
[Section 118.57](#) [public notification of educational options]

Wisconsin Administrative Code

[Chapter PI 40](#) [regulations governing the early college credit program, which are not directly applicable to the "Start College Now" program]

Adopted: 04/23/18

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