

EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM

Rice Lake Area School District high school students may participate in the Early College Credit Program in accordance with state law requirements and this policy. A student participating in the Early College Credit Program must continuously meet the enrollment and district program participation requirements applicable to the awarding of a high school diploma by the District.

All Rice Lake High School students shall be informed of the Early College Credit Program annually.

The high school principal shall administer the Early College Credit Program in the District. Students interested in participating shall submit a timely application to the applicable institution of higher education (IHE) and, separately, provide the District with timely notification of (1) their intention to take post-secondary courses under this program prior to enrollment in the course(s) and within designated timelines; (2) their confirmed admission to the IHE; and (3) their confirmed registration in particular courses.

An IHE may deny a high school student's enrollment application or the student's request for registration in a specific course if the post-secondary institution determines that the student fails to meet any applicable admission requirements (including course prerequisites), or if the institution determines that there is no space available in the class.

The District shall pay for no more than the equivalent of 18 post-secondary semester credits (4½ high school credits) per student through the Early College Credit Program. A student participating in the Early College Credit Program may attend only one post-secondary institution in any semester.

Students attending classes at an institution of higher education under the Early College Credit Program shall be responsible for their own transportation costs, except as otherwise required by law.

Early College Credit Program Courses through an Institution of Higher Education

Eligible high school students may apply for enrollment in Early College Credit Program courses provided by an institution of higher education (e.g., an institution within the University of Wisconsin system, a tribally controlled college, or a private nonprofit college or university in this state). All courses taken at an institution of higher education under the Early College Credit Program must be nonsectarian.

Determinations of Course Comparability and High School Credit

The high school principal shall determine whether a course taken through the Early College Credit Program is comparable to a course offered in the District, whether it satisfies high school graduation requirements and what, if any, high school credits will be awarded to the student. The high school principal shall deny high school credit for an Early College Credit Program course for any of the reasons permitted by applicable laws and regulations. If a student is not satisfied with the District's decisions, they may appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction within 30 days.

A post-secondary course taken under the Early College Credit Program and approved for high school credit by the District shall be granted one-fourth (0.25) high school credit per one semester credit offered by a post-secondary course.

Payment for Early College Credit Program Courses

Courses taken as part of the Early College Credit Program shall be paid for as follows:

1. If the course is taken for high school credit, and the course is not comparable to a course offered in the District (an approximate 80 percent match in course content), the District shall pay 75% of the costs associated with the course and the State shall pay 25% as required by law. In situations where the District is required to purchase a textbook or similar resource, the student shall return the materials to the high school principal upon completion of the course as a resource for other students.
2. If the course is taken for high school credit and is comparable to a course offered in the District, the student shall pay all of the costs associated with the course as required by law.
3. If the course is taken for post-secondary credit only, the District shall pay 25% of the costs associated with the course, the State shall pay 50% of the costs, and the student shall pay 25% of the costs as required by law. The District shall waive and pay the student's share of the tuition charge if it is determined it would pose an undue financial burden to the student and their family, as determined by DPI administrative rule.
4. If a student receives a failing grade in a course, or fails to complete a course, at an institution of higher education for which the District has made a payment of tuition or other costs, the student's parent or guardian, or the student if they are an adult, shall reimburse the District for the amount paid on the student's behalf unless the Board of Education approves a waiver of this requirement based upon extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances which were not within the control of the student or their parent or guardian and under which the Board of Education determines that it would not have been reasonable to expect a student to be able to complete and pass the course. If such reimbursement is not provided to the District upon request, the student shall be ineligible for any further participation in the Early College Credit Program.

Legal Ref: 38.12(14); 115.385(4); 118.15(1)(d); 118.33, 118.52; 118.55; 118.57; Section 120.12(17) WSS; PI 40 WAC

Cross Ref: 342.41 Programs and Services for English Learners; 344.5 Rule Requirements for Graduation; 411 Student Nondiscrimination and Equal Educational Opportunities

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Reviewed: