

343.45 TECHNICAL COLLEGE COURSE PROGRAM (“START COLLEGE NOW”)

PURPOSE

The School District of Wisconsin Rapids supports providing quality educational opportunities to ensure District students graduate college and career ready. Consistent with state law, high school students in the 11th and 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 nonsectarian courses at a technical college through the technical college “Start College Now” (SCN) Program.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Comparable Course. A comparable course means all of the following:
 - a. The high school course is offered during the period of time after the student notifies the Board of his or her intention to participate in the Start College Now Program under Wisconsin law and prior to the student’s graduation.
 - b. The high school course is available for enrollment.
 - c. The high school course content, as determined by curriculum guides, expectations, goals, scope and sequence, is equivalent to the content of the postsecondary course as determined by the postsecondary course syllabus, if available, and course description.
- B. Credit. A unit of measure given for the successful completion of a course of study as defined in Board of Education policy.
- C. Good Academic Standing. For purposes of this policy, good academic standing shall mean a cumulative high school grade point average of at least 2.5 (or the equivalent) at the time of the determination. Exceptions to this expectation may be granted at the discretion of the Administration.
- D. Start College Now Program. The Start College Now Program shall refer to the Technical College Course Program authorized under the Wisconsin Statutes.
- E. Successfully Completed or Successful Completion. For purposes of this policy, successfully completed or successful completion shall mean a student has completed the course with a passing grade.
- F. Term. For purposes of this policy, term shall mean either a semester or a trimester, as applicable.

IMPLEMENTATION

- A. The Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall establish administrative procedures for the administration of the Start College Now Program, which shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Student eligibility for the program;
 - b. Guidelines for determining a student’s good academic standing; and
 - c. To the extent not adequately addressed by state statutes or regulations, guidelines for determining whether a course that a student wishes to take through the SCN Program is eligible for high school credit and/or is comparable to a course offered by the District.
 - d. Ensure that the District appropriately processes requests/applications related to the SCN Program; and
 - e. 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.
- B. 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 by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR COSTS AND LIMITATIONS ON DISTRICT PAYMENTS

- A. 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 taken for high school credit and the course is not comparable to a course offered in the District.
- B. Limitations on the District's responsibility for payment include the following:
 - a. The District shall pay only such tuition, fees and course materials costs as are required by law.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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. Courses that the District paid for under the former Youth Options Program and/or Course Options Program count toward this credit limit.
 - d. 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 over the age of 18, 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.
- C. 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.

NOTICE

- A. Information about the Start College Now Program shall be provided to high school students annually by October 1. Start College Now Program information shall also be included in the high school course description book and student expectations handbook.
- B. The District shall not discriminate in admission to any school, class, program or activity on the basis of sex, age, race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital status, parental status, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability/handicap, or any other legally-protected status or classification. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established complaint procedures.

LEGAL REF: Sections 38.12(14) Wisconsin Statutes
 115.385(4)
 118.15(1)(b)
 118.15(1)(d)
 118.153(1)(a)
 118.33
 118.55
 118.57
 PI 40, Wisconsin Administrative Code

CROSS REF.: 343.45 Rule – Start College Now Program Procedures
 343.6 – Early College Credit Program
 343.6 Rule – Early College Credit Program Procedures
 345.5 – Graduation Requirements

APPROVED: November 12, 2018