

**Title: "Start College Now" Program (Technical College Course Program)**

High school students in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade or 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

The District Administrator or an administrative-level designee shall be responsible for (1) ensuring that the District appropriately processes requests/applications related to 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.

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 District Administrator.

Administratively-approved procedures supporting this policy shall establish any necessary guidelines for the administration of this program, including at least the following: (1) student eligibility for this program, including guidelines for determining a student's "good academic standing"; and (2) 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 "Start College Now" program satisfies a high school graduation requirement and whether the course is comparable to a course offered by the District.

**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.
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.
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.

LEG REF: Wisconsin Statutes Sections: [§38.12\(14\)](#), [§115.385\(4\)](#), [§118.15\(1\)\(b\)](#), [§118.15\(1\)\(d\)](#), [§118.153\(1\)\(a\)](#), [§118.33](#), [§118.55](#), [§118.57](#)

Wisconsin Administrative Code: [§Chapter PI 40](#)

Policy Adopted: January 25, 2023