

## Oak Creek-Franklin Joint School District Board of Education

### Policy 344.1: START COLLEGE NOW

#### A. Eligibility

High school students in the 11th grade or 12th grade who meet the eligibility requirements defined in applicable statutes, regulations, and this policy may be permitted to enroll in one or more courses at a technical college through the Start College Now. In addition to other applicable eligibility requirements, a student who wishes to enroll in a course through a technical college under this policy must:

1. have the written approval of a parent or guardian, if a minor;
2. notify the District of his/her intent to attend a technical college by **March 1** if the student intends to enroll at the technical college in the fall semester, and by **October 1** if the student intends to enroll in the spring semester;
3. have completed 10th grade (all requirements met, including a minimum of eleven (11) high school credits completed toward graduation by the end of the high school semester in which the student gives notice of his/her intent to take a technical college course);
4. not be a child at risk of not graduating from high school, as defined by state law; and
5. the school board may reject an application from a pupil who has disciplinary problems, as determined by the school board
6. be in good academic standing within the District. 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 2.5 at the time of the determination.

A student who is interested in attending individual courses under the "Start College Now" program may also be required to submit enrollment forms or other enrollment information directly to the applicable technical college, pursuant to any procedures and deadlines established by the technical college.

A technical college district board may deny a high school student admission to the technical college, or registration in a specific course, for any of the reasons provided in state law, including the technical college's determination, following verification with the District, that the student has an unacceptable record of disciplinary problems.

## B. Program Administration

The Assistant Superintendent for Operations or an administrative-level designee shall be responsible for (1) ensuring that the District appropriately processes requests/applications related to the Start College Now; 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 or 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 for participation in the program;
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
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 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 Chief Finance and Business Officer in consultation with the Director of Student Services.

## C. Responsibility for Costs and Limitations on District Payments

To the extent required by state law, the District shall pay for certain 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.

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 textbook or similar resource that is not a one-time use item, the student shall be required to return the resource(s) to the High School Office upon completion of the

course unless arrangements are made to purchase the resource by reimbursing the district for the original cost.

2. Unless a student qualifies for and is enrolled in a *Technical College Dual Enrollment Academy for High School Seniors*, the District shall pay for no more than the equivalent of a combined total of eighteen (18) post-secondary semester credits per student for any courses that are taken through the Start College Now or the Early College Credit Program.
3. The District shall require a student who receives a failing grade in or who fails to complete a technical college course to reimburse the District for all amounts paid for the course on the student's behalf. For a student who is a minor, the student's parent or guardian is responsible for such reimbursement. If reimbursement is not made upon request, the student is ineligible for any further participation in the Start College Now and the Early College Credit Program and the District may turn unfulfilled request for reimbursement over to a collection agency.
4. The District is not responsible for providing transportation to technical college courses taken under this policy or paying for transportation-related costs.

#### **D. Determinations of Course Comparability, Eligibility for High School Credit, and Satisfaction of High School Graduation Requirements**

1. The determination of whether a course satisfies a high school graduation requirement shall be made with reference to [Policy 348 Graduation Requirements](#) and by applying the standards and guidelines that the District applies to its own course offerings and to courses that are submitted for a similar assessment by students who are transferring into the District.
2. The District may grant high school credit for a course taken at a technical college if the course meets a the high school graduation requirement under [Policy 348 Graduation Requirements](#) **and** if one or more of the following conditions apply:
  - (a) If the course is complementary to, consistent with, or expands on a course of study or sequence of courses offered by the school district.
  - (b) If the course expands an opportunity for the pupil to move to another level of academic or vocational course of study.
  - (c) If the course curriculum meets or exceeds the same standards for rigor and content as other courses approved by **but not offered** by the school district for credit toward graduation.

- (d) If the postsecondary course supports rather than prevents a pupil from completing the high school graduation requirements.

The district will not grant high school credit for a course if: (i) the school district offers a comparable course as specified below; (ii) it repeats course content for which a pupil has already received a passing grade and high school credit; or (iii) it repeats the postsecondary course content for which a pupil has already taken and failed.

In addition, 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 indicated by the technical college's official transcript.

3. For purposes of determining whether a course that a student wishes to take through the Start College Now is comparable to a course offered by the District, the term "comparable" means **ALL** of the following:
  - (a) The high school course is offered during the period of time after the pupil notifies the district of his or her intention to participate in the Start College Now and prior to the pupil's graduation; and
  - (b) The high school course is available for enrollment; and
  - (c) The high school course content, as determined by curriculum guides, expectations, goals, scope and sequence, is 80% equivalent to the content of the postsecondary course as determined by the postsecondary course syllabus and course description.
4. **At least 30 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 intends to enroll (1) does not meet the high school graduation requirements, and (2) whether the course is comparable to a course offered in the District.

If an applicant for the program disagrees with a District decision regarding course comparability 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]

[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]

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| <a href="#">Section 118.15(1)(d)</a>  | [discretionary program and curriculum modifications]               |
| <a href="#">Section 118.153(1)(a)</a> | [definition of a child at risk of not graduating from high school] |
| <a href="#">Section 118.33</a>        | [high school graduation requirements]                              |
| <a href="#">Section 118.55</a>        | [early college credit program]                                     |
| <a href="#">Section 118.57</a>        | [public notification of educational options]                       |

### **Wisconsin Administrative Code**

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| <a href="#">Chapter PI 40</a> | [regulations governing the early college credit program, which are not directly applicable to the “Start College Now” program] |
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### **Cross References:**

[Policy 348 Graduation Requirements](#)

[Policy 344.2 Early College Credit Program](#)

Adoption Date: February 2018

Updated: June 2020