

Date: December 4, 2017
To: District Administrators
From: Mike Thompson, PhD, Deputy State Superintendent
Subject: State Aid for School Districts under the Early College Credit Program

The Department of Public Instruction (the department) has recently received several inquiries from school districts about the costs for which schools will be responsible under the new Early College Credit Program (ECCP), as created by 2017 Act 59 (the 2017-19 biennial budget). This memo clarifies the provisions around the cost sharing mechanism and the state aid that will be available to school districts and participating private schools for students participating in the ECCP. In addition, this information is included in the department's summary of the budget bill, which you can access at https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/policy-budget/pdf/Act%2059%202017-19%20CONDENSED%20Budget%20Summary_Nov%209.pdf (See "Early College Credit Program, beginning on page 6, and in Appendix B, page 23.)

COST SHARING MODEL

Effective for the 2018-19 school year, the Youth Options and Course Options programs will be replaced with the Early College Credit Program (ECCP). A student in grades 9 through 12 attending a public school or a private school in the state will be permitted to enroll in a UW System institution, or a private, non-profit institution of higher education, to take one or more nonsectarian courses, for which the student may earn high school credit, post-secondary credit, or both. (The technical colleges are not included in the new ECCP; however, high school students will continue to be able to enroll in courses offered by a technical college.)

Under the ECCP, the costs of courses is shared among the institution of higher education (IHE), the school district or private school, the state, and in some cases, the student's family.

- The IHE shares in the cost by virtue of an allowable tuition charge.
- School districts and private schools will be responsible for making payment directly to the IHE within 30 days of the end of the semester, but will be eligible to receive state aid (reimbursement of expenditures) to offset its costs.
- Additionally, if the student is receiving *just* post-secondary credit for a course, the student's family is responsible for paying 25 percent of the allowable tuition charge, unless that payment would pose an undue financial burden on the student's family (as determined by the department). School boards and governing bodies of private schools will be responsible for establishing policy on the method for collecting the family's share of costs.

Note that a student’s family cannot be charged for any portion of the allowable tuition amount if the student is earning high school credit as a result of enrolling in the course (even if the student earns both high school and post-secondary credit). Neither the IHE nor the school district or private school may charge a student any additional costs or fees. However, school boards and governing bodies of private schools are authorized to adopt a policy that limits to 18 (for an individual student) the total number of post-secondary credits for which it will pay under the ECCP (and attendance at a technical college), as is the case under current law.

STATE AID UNDER THE ECCP

As noted above, school districts and private schools will be responsible for making payment to the IHE within 30 days after the end of the semester in which the students were enrolled in a course under the ECCP. Note that the ECCP also permits students to take courses at an IHE in the summer session.

School districts and private schools will also be responsible for reporting to the department regarding costs incurred for courses taken by students under the ECCP, so that the department can calculate state aid. Each school district and private school will receive state aid in accordance with the cost-sharing mechanism provided for under Act 59, described in the table below.

<u>Credit is earned for:</u>	<u>School District</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>IHE</u>
High School (<i>even if also for postsecondary</i>)*	75%	25% ^	0%	Cost sharing through limit on allowable tuition charge
Postsecondary <u>only</u> *	25%	50% ^	25% ^ (<i>only if no undue financial burden</i>)	

**The course must not be comparable to one offered in the school district in which the student is enrolled.*

^Via reimbursement to school district as aid disbursed by the department and from the student (where appropriate).

Act 59 provides \$1,753,500, beginning in 2018-19, for payments to school districts and private schools under the ECCP, in the following proportions:

1. For a student who took a course for high school credit (even if also for postsecondary credit), 25 percent of the actual cost of tuition for the course**.
2. For a student who took a course for postsecondary credit only, 50 percent of the actual cost of tuition for the course**.

***Payments will be prorated if the appropriation is insufficient to fully fund all eligible claims for reimbursements submitted by school districts and private schools.*

I hope this information is helpful in clarifying questions about the cost structure for the new ECCP. Please contact the Career and Technical Education Team in the department with questions at: dualenrollment@dpi.wi.gov, or at 608-267-3161.

c: Jennifer Kammerud, Policy Initiatives Advisor
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