

2017 Wisconsin Act 59

Summary of Early College Credit Program

Overview

The 2017 Wisconsin Act 59 eliminated the Course Options and Youth Options programs. The Youth Options statute ([118.55](#)) was renamed the Early College Credit Program. The statute allows Wisconsin public and private high school students to take one or more courses at an institution of higher education for high school and/or college credit. Under this section, “institution of higher education” means an institution within the University of Wisconsin System, a tribally controlled college, or a private, nonprofit institution of higher education located in the state. While technical colleges are not eligible institutions under the new program, pupils that have completed 10th grade will continue to have the option to take courses at technical colleges through a separate statute, [38.12\(14\)](#). School districts should contact the [Wisconsin Technical College System](#) for more information on technical college dual credit options. All changes are effective 7/1/2018.

For a more detailed understanding of the changes from youth options to early college credit, please review the comparison chart below and the [revised statute](#) for the Early College Credit Program.

For questions about this information, please contact [Dual Enrollment](#) (608) 267-3161.

Provision	Early College Credit Program (NEW) Effective 7/1/18	Youth Options Effective until 6/30/2018
Eligible Students	Students attending Wisconsin public and private schools Wis. Stat. § 118.55(2)	Students attending Wisconsin public schools
Eligible Grades	9 - 12 Wis. Stat. § 118.55(2)	11 & 12
Eligible Institutions	Collectively referred to as “Institutions of Higher Education” (IHE)	Collectively referred to as “Institutions of Higher Education” (IHE)

	Includes UW System institutions, tribally controlled colleges, and private, nonprofit institutions of higher education Wis. Stat. § 118.55(1)(bm)	Includes UW System institutions, tribally controlled colleges, private, nonprofit institutions of higher education, and Wisconsin Technical Colleges
Eligible Semesters	Fall, Spring, and Summer Wis. Stat. § 118.55(2)	Fall and Spring only
College/Course credit limitation	18 college credits total with corresponding district policy; no annual or semester limits UW System institutions must notify student of whether credits earned are transferable between and within institutions. Wis. Stat. §§ 118.55(7t)(a)	18 college credits total with corresponding district policy; no annual or semester limits
Application and Notification	Student must submit an application to the IHE in the previous school semester. The student must notify the school board or the governing body of the private school of the student's intent to enroll in an IHE. Wis. Stat. § 118.55(2)	Student notifies the school district ("board") using DPI developed form and enrolls at college or university at which course(s) are being sought.
Deadline for notification or application	Students must notify district of intent to enroll in Early College Credit Program courses by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 1st for summer courses • March 1st for fall courses) • October 1st for spring courses Wis. Stat. § 118.55(3)(a)	Students must notify district of intent to enroll in Youth Options courses by March 1st (for fall courses) and October 1st (for spring courses)
Deadline for notifying student of decision	District must notify student of approval and/or rejection of desired courses before the beginning of the semester in which the pupil will be enrolled	District must notify student of approval and/or rejection of desired courses by May 15th for courses to be taken in fall and November 15th for courses to be taken in spring

	Wis. Stat. § 118.55(3)(b)	
Method of selecting applicants	An IHE must admit a student if there is space available and the student meets the requirements and prerequisites of the course Wis. Stat. § 118.55(4)(a) 1. and 2	An IHE may admit a student only if there is space available
District denial of high school credit for ECCP course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Doesn't satisfy a high school graduation requirement · District offers comparable course <p><i>Note: see payment section, district is still responsible for 25% of the cost in the event the course is taken for postsecondary credit only</i></p> Wis Stat. § 118.55(3)(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Doesn't satisfy a high school graduation requirement · District offers comparable course <p><i>Note: Student may still take the requested course under Youth Options, but will have to pay all costs and, if determined to not satisfy a high school graduation requirement, only receive college credit</i></p>
Appeal considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Meets graduation requirements · District offers comparable course · Filed within 30 days of receiving decision Wis. Stat. § 118.55(3)(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Meets graduation requirements · District offers comparable course · Filed within 30 days of receiving decision
Responsibility for paying cost of approved course	Student's district of full-time attendance, state, IHE, and pupil (if applicable) Wis. Stat. § 118.55(5)	Student's district of full-time attendance or the pupil (if applicable).

Cost of course

**High School Credit Only OR
High School AND Postsecondary Credit**

If the District does not offer a comparable course

School District – 75%

State – 25% *(The DPI shall reimburse the school board of the school district the amount received from the department of workforce development under this section)*

Pupil – 0%

Postsecondary Credit Only

If the District does not offer a comparable course

School District - 25%

State – 50% *(The DPI shall reimburse the school board of the school district the amount received from the department of workforce development under this section)*

Pupil – 25% *(the school board/private school must waive and pay the pupil's share of the tuition charge if it is determined that it would pose an undue financial burden to the student and their family, as determined by DPI administrative rule.)*

Notes:

IHE cost sharing through limit on allowable tuition charge

The tuition charged for each credit assigned to the course may not exceed the following:

For an institution within the UW System or a tribally controlled college (other than UW college campus), cost is 1/3 of the amount that would be charged for each credit assigned to the course to an individual who is a Wisconsin resident and who is enrolled as an undergraduate student.

For a UW college campus, cost is 1/2 of the amount that would be charged for each credit assigned to the course to an individual who is a Wisconsin resident and who is enrolled as an undergraduate student.

For a private, nonprofit institution of higher education, cost is 1/3 of the amount that would be charged for each credit assigned to a similar course offered by the UW-Madison to an individual who is a Wisconsin resident and is enrolled at the UW-Madison as an undergraduate student.

[Wis. Stat. § 118.55\(5\)\(a\)-\(e\)](#)

High School Credit Only

- For WTCS and UW-System, actual cost of tuition, fees, books, and other necessary materials directly related to the course.
- For private, nonprofit colleges, lesser of the actual cost of tuition fees, books, and other materials directly related to the course or an amount determined according to statutory formula.

Transportation

Student/parent responsible for any transportation costs for attending course(s)

Note: funding is available to assist in transportation costs for families in need

[Wis. Stat. § 118.55\(7g\)](#)

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Note: funding was available to assist in transportation costs for families in need