

**FILE: RVA-IGCD**

**MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**DATE ADOPTED: May 17, 2018**      **FILE SECTOR: INSTRUCTION**  
**POLICY TITLE: START COLLEGE NOW / EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM**

Medford Area Public School District (MAPSD) Board of Education (BOE) believes that any student who is capable of, and wishes to do advanced level work, should be given the opportunity if the courses are available and prerequisites have been met.

**Start College Now Program (SCN)**

Beginning in the fall of 2018, the “Start College Now” Program will allow high school juniors and seniors who have a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.0 GPA for the previous semester the opportunity to take college courses at Wisconsin Technical Colleges. Through this program, students can take one or more courses for which they may earn high school elective credit, post-secondary credit or both.

**Early College Credit Program (ECCP)**

Beginning in the fall of 2018, high school students at public and private high schools in Wisconsin who have a 3.0 overall GPA and a 3.0 GPA for the previous semester can earn college credit through the ECCP. A student selected for the program may be permitted to enroll in the UW System institution, or an alternative private, non-profit institution of higher education (IHE) to take one or more courses for which the student may earn high school elective credit, post-secondary credit or both.

All courses taken through these programs for high school credit shall be approved in advance by MAPSD BOE or its designee.

A student may not take more than a total of 18 credits under these programs over the period a student is eligible for SCN or ECCP.

**CROSS REFERENCE: IGBH, IKA, IKF, JIA & JECD-R**

**LEGAL REFERENCE: §118.52 & 118.55 Wis. Stats. & PI 38 PI-40**

MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

DATE ADOPTED: FILE SECTOR: INSTRUCTION  
POLICY TITLE: START COLLEGE NOW / EARLY  
COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM

**A. Start College Now Program (SCN)**

**How to apply for the SCN:**

- A junior or senior in good academic standing, as determined by the school district, with an acceptable disciplinary record, and in a public (including independent charter) or private school, could participate in the SCN.
- Request information from the Wisconsin Technical College where you'd like to take classes.
- Talk with your high school guidance counselor to see if it's a good fit for you. They will consider how the class aligns with academic plans and whether you meet the pre-requisite for taking a college level class. Obtain a SCN application from your high school counselor.
- Submit your completed form by March 1 for the fall semester or October 1 for the spring semester to your guidance office (available for the fall and spring semesters only).
- Apply to the campus where you'd like to take classes (meet all deadlines and their campus-specific requirements).
- Submit high school transcripts along with any prerequisite documentation (i.e. AP scores).
- At least 30 days before the beginning of a technical college semester in which the student will be enrolled, MAPSD must notify the student if a technical college course in which the student will be enrolled will not meet a high school graduation requirement and whether the course is comparable to a course offered in the school district.
- MAPSD to notify student/parent by May 15 for the fall semester or November 15 for the spring semester whether the application has been approved or denied.
- Enroll in your class (only after approval has been granted).
- For each student attending a technical college under this program, the school district shall pay to the technical college for those courses taken for high school credit, course fees and books that a student who is attending the technical college and who is a resident of the State of Wisconsin would be charged, except that the school district is not responsible for payment for any courses that are comparable to courses offered in the school district.

**Reasons for Denial**

- Does not satisfy a high school graduation requirement
- Does not have an overall 3.0 GPA or a 3.0 GPA for the previous semester
- District offers comparable course
- The student has a record of disciplinary problems

**B. Early College Credit Program (ECCP)**

**How to apply for the ECCP:**

- A student in any high school grade in good academic standing, as determined by the school district, and in a public (including independent charter) or private school, could participate in the ECCP.
- Request information from UW System campus(es) where you'd like to take classes.

- Talk with your high school guidance counselor to see if it's a good fit for you. They will consider how the class aligns with academic plans and whether you meet the pre-requisite for taking a college level class. Obtain an ECCP application from your high school counselor.
- Submit your completed form by March 1 for summer and/or fall semester or October 1 for spring semester to your school officials.
- Apply to the campus where you'd like to take classes. Deadlines are: May 1 for the summer term; June 15 for the fall term; and December 1 for the spring term.
- Submit high school transcripts along with any prerequisite documentation (AP Scores).
- MAPSD to notify student/parent before the beginning of the semester in which the student will be enrolled whether the application has been approved or denied.
- Enroll in your class (only after approval has been granted).
- The following cost sharing chart will be used:

Credit is earned for:	School District	State	Student	IHE
High School (even if also for postsecondary)*	75%	25% <sup>^</sup>	0%	Cost sharing through limit on allowable tuition charge
Postsecondary only*	25%	50% <sup>^</sup>	25%	

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

<sup>^</sup> Via reimbursement to school district from grant funds appropriated in the Department of Workforce Development and from the student.

- MAPSD makes payment (100%) directly to the IHE within 30 days of the end of the semester.
- MAPSD will submit an itemized report to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) the amounts paid to IHEs for students participating in the ECCP.
- Student(s) receiving just post-secondary (not high school) credit only for the course is responsible for paying 25% of the allowable tuition charge to the MAPSD within 30 days of the end of the semester, unless that payment would pose an undue financial burden on the family, as determined by DPI.

Note: Per the UW, the "postsecondary only" scenario would only happen if the student is physically taking the course at one of their sites. This scenario would be very rare.

- If the student takes the course at a high school in a school district (for high school credit), the school board of the school district in which the student is enrolled (rather than the IHE) would be responsible for the costs of books and other necessary materials for the course.

### Reasons for Denial

- Does not satisfy a high school graduation requirement.
- Does not have an overall 3.0 GPA or a 3.0 GPA for the previous semester
- District offers comparable course.

### Appeal Considerations

- Filed within 30 days of receiving decision.

**C. Important things to note:**

- Students / parents should always know the specific requirements of the school of their choice for the SCN or the ECCP programs, as they may vary.
- Students may not participate in both the SCN and the ECCP at the same term.
- The student will be considered a college student in the eyes of the postsecondary institution.
- It is the student's responsibility to register at the postsecondary institution, enroll in courses, meet prerequisites and attend classes. Progress reports are not provided by the college or university to the student's high school counselor or family.
- If a student receives a failing grade in a course or fails to complete a course, at an IHE or technical college for which the school district has made payment, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s), or the student if he or she is an adult, must reimburse the school district the amount paid on the student's behalf upon the school district's request. If a school district that requests reimbursement of a payment made under this section is not reimbursed as requested, the student on whose behalf the payment was made is ineligible for any further participation in the program under this section. For the purposes of this paragraph, a grade that constitutes a failing grade for a course offered in the school district constitutes a failing grade for a course taken at an IHE or technical college under this section.
- One semester credit offered by a postsecondary course is equivalent to 0.25 RVA elective credits.
- Textbooks purchased by the MAPSD/ RVA to support the SCN or ECCP must be returned to the district upon course completion.
- Submitting a SCN or ECCP application and obtaining approval from the MAPSD does not guarantee that a student will be able to take a course. Each IHE will determine if room is available in the identified course. Furthermore, registration should not take place until permission is granted from IHE.
- Student/ parent responsible for any transportation costs for attending course(s).
- All courses taken through SCN or ECCP must be from eligible institutions in the State of Wisconsin.
- Students may be sent a 1098T form from the IHE. This form is for information only and alerts students that they may be eligible for education tax credits. The figure in Box 5 of the 1098T – Scholarships or Grants – includes scholarships, grants and, if applicable, payments made by a third party under a formal billing arrangement.
- Students are allowed to take courses comparable to those offered by the school district; however, in this case, the students and/or family would have to pay for the course or courses and the following provisions will be in place:
  - The student/family pays for the course.
  - The school district will allow release time to take the course, if offered during the school day.
  - The school district will allow the course to be included on the transcript and/or substituted for required course.

**MEDFORD AREA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT/ RURAL VIRTUAL ACADEMY  
Start College Now / Early College Credit Program Enrollment Agreement**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Course: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Technical College or IHE \_\_\_\_\_

Course Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RVA provides high school students with the opportunity to enroll in coursework from the technical college system and the university system through the state of Wisconsin approved Start College Now (SCN) / Early College Credit Program (ECCP).

The following agreement pertains to students who take part in the SCN / ECCP.

- In order for a student to enroll in university/technical college coursework, they must meet all of the requirements established by the University of Wisconsin or Wisconsin Technical College system for the course. This includes but is not limited to a student being in both good academic standing and not identified as a discipline problem.
- MAPSD/ RVA agrees to pay the initial cost of the coursework as indicated on the PI-8700A, PI-8900, PI 38, Wis. §118.52 & §118.55 and/or initial cost of the coursework offered from MAPSD/ RVA Distance Learning Network, SCN or ECCP programs.
- If the student receives a failing grade in a course or fails to complete a course at an IHE or technical college, the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) or the student, if he/she is an adult, must reimburse the school district the amount paid by the school district on the student's behalf. A grade that constitutes a failing grade for a course offered in the school district constitutes a failing grade for a course taken at an IHE or technical college.
- If a student enrolls in a course offered through MAPSD/ RVA Distance Learning Network, SCN or ECCP programs and withdraws after the course begins, the financial obligation becomes that of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or the student.
- All parties involved must agree to the stipulations in this agreement before final enrollment in the SCN/ ECCP programs as stated on the PI-8700A, PI-8900, PI 38, Wis. §118.52 & §118.55.

Start College Now       Early College Credit       Distance Learning

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date