

5-G-B: EARLY/MIDDLE COLLEGE

An early/middle college is a five-year educational track, that can begin as early as 9th grade, designed to allow a pupil to earn a high school diploma while also earning up to 60 transferable college credits toward a four-year degree from a Michigan public or private university, an associate degree from a Michigan junior college or community college, or a Michigan Early/Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certificate.

A district can establish an early/middle college as a separate high school, where all of the pupils enrolled will be part of the early/middle college, or the district can offer an early/middle college program within an existing high school, giving pupils an option to participate.

A consortium agreement or a memorandum of understanding between an intermediate district or a school district and a Michigan public or private college or university, a junior college, or a community college is needed to establish an early/middle college school or program. Once an agreement or memorandum has been signed, the early/middle college school or program must present the program to the Department for final approval.

A) Requirements for Counting in Membership

A district may count a pupil in membership if all of the following are met:

- 1) The **pupil must meet pupil membership eligibility requirements** pursuant to Section 6(4) or 6(6) of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1606) **and any other applicable statute.**
- 2) The **pupil shall be registered, enrolled, and participating in the course(s)** pursuant to Section 6(4), Section 6(8) and Section 6a of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1606 and MCL 388.1606a).
- 3) The pupil must have not earned or obtained a high school diploma or GED certificate.
- 4) The pupil may be considered full-time if one of the following is satisfied:
 - a. The combined number of classes in which the pupil is enrolled and which he or she is attending at the high school and at an eligible postsecondary institution equals the number of scheduled classes per day at the high school necessary to reach the minimum required hours for a full-time pupil. Actual hours of instruction do not need to be calculated.
 - b. The combined number of classes in which the pupil is enrolled and which he or she is attending at the high school and at an eligible postsecondary institution equals the number of scheduled classes per day at the high school necessary to meet the minimum instructional time requirements of a reduced schedule. Actual hours of instruction do not need to be calculated.
 - c. The sum of the actual instructional hours in which the pupil is enrolled and which he or she is attending at the high school and at an eligible postsecondary institution plus the actual travel time meets the minimum number of hours required to meet a reduced schedule.
 - d. The pupil meets the postsecondary institution's definition of a full-time college pupil.
- 5) The pupil is enrolled in a school district that has a separate designation in the Educational Entity Master (EEM) indicating that the district provides an early/middle college school or early/middle college program.
- 6) The pupil is enrolled in at least 1 high school class in a school district or state-approved nonpublic school in Michigan.
- 7) The pupil is not a foreign exchange pupil enrolled under a cultural exchange program.

8) The pupil has at least 1 parent or legal guardian who is a Michigan resident.

B) Early/Middle College School or Early/Middle College Program

An **early/middle college school** means a stand-alone public high school, a school within a school, a Public School Academy (PSA), or a Shared Educational Entity (SEE) designed to allow a pupil to earn, at the same time, a high school diploma and either an associate degree, the Michigan Early/Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certification, or up to 60 transferable college credits.

An **early/middle college program** is a high school program designed to allow a pupil to earn a high school diploma and substantial college credit through an additional (fifth) year of study. A formal agreement with each postsecondary partner is required.

C) Calculating Instructional Hours

For the purpose of determining how college credits equate to high school classes, the Department considers 12 credits to be a full-time college course load. Therefore, if a high school has six-period days, a 2-credit college course would be equivalent to one high school class ($2 \text{ credits}/12 \text{ credits} = 1/6$). If a high school uses a schedule of four blocks (classes) per day, a 3-credit college course would be equivalent to one high school class ($3 \text{ credits}/12 \text{ credits} = 1/4$).

D) Early/Middle College vs. Fifth Year High School Pupil

An early/middle college pupil must enroll in the five-year high school program by grade 11, and will earn by the end of the fifth year a high school diploma and 60 transferable college credits toward a four-year degree from a Michigan public or private university, an associate degree from a Michigan junior college or community college, or a Michigan Early/Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certificate. A pupil enrolled in an early/middle college is not limited to a maximum number of college courses during the fifth year.

A fifth year high school pupil (also referred to as a fifth year senior) is an alternative education pupil who enrolls for a fifth year of high school in order to satisfy graduation requirements. A fifth year high school pupil may enroll in not more than two (2) postsecondary courses at any given time, and not more than four (4) postsecondary enrollment courses during the school year.

E) Statutory and Other References

State School Aid Act:

MCL 388.1621b

Revised School Code:

MCL 380.1204a

MCL 380.1471 – 380.1474

Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act:

MCL 388.511 – 388.524

Career and Technical Preparation Act:

MCL 388.1901 – 388.1913

Administrative Rules:

R 340.1(c)

R 340.7(8)

R 340.10a(4)

R 388.151 – 388.155