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GOVERNOR


STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Mike Flanagan 
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Best Practices for Earning Postsecondary Credit in High School

The Governor's FY 2013 budget proposal includes a funding bonus for schools that meet a number of best practices, one of which is providing opportunities for students to earn postsecondary credit while in high school. Offering expanded options for college level courses changes the expectations and commitments of both students and staff and leads to a modification in the culture of a high school. Since college courses are available in the evenings, on Saturdays, and online, students will have additional types of flexible schedule options. The chance to take college courses also provides a reality check for students on their level of college preparation and helps them to develop their own sense of academic efficacy. In addition, postsecondary options help to put "college knowledge" strategies into practice as students learn college readiness skills, such as time management.

A variety of designs and concepts are available to provide early college credit earning experiences for students ranging from Advanced Placement, dual enrollment, and Early/Middle Colleges (EMC). We have created a comprehensive list of options for providing your students the opportunity to earn postsecondary credit while in high school. A chart of all the available options can be downloaded from our website: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-43092_51178---,00.html.

Recently, we've received inquiries about creating more flexibility in defining EMC opportunities. Since our "end goal" is to have all Michigan students graduate from high school with post-secondary credit, we have expanded the definition of an EMC. As you can see on the chart mentioned above, this expanded definition allows for both a stand alone public high school and a school within a school. Both options will require that each applies to MDE for approval to operate a five-year EMC program; once approved each school will need to obtain its own Entity Code and operate as an independent school. The goal with both these options is that

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students leave high school after the five-year program with a diploma, as well as one of the following: an associate's degree, up to 60 transferable college credits, or an EMC Technical Certificate. This expanded definition will remove the need for most requests for waivers.

If you have questions on any of these postsecondary options or are interested in learning more about how this expanded EMC definition will work, please contact either Patty Cantú, Director, Office of Career and Technical Education, at: cantup@michigan.gov or telephone (517) 335-5224 or Linda Forward, Director, Office of Educational Improvement and Innovation, at: forwardl@michigan.gov or telephone (517) 241-3147.

Career and college readiness for all students, coupled with the opportunity to receive college credit before graduation, provides both an incentive for students and an affordable postsecondary pathway for all families. I hope you will consider making a variety of options available for your students.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance