

Early Middle College (EMC) Return to Learn Guidance Fall 2020-2021

Michigan schools provide educational opportunities in diverse settings. Early Middle Colleges are unique as students are enrolled in both high school and college courses. Regardless of where instruction occurs, schools must take essential action to mitigate risk and operate as safely as possible while maintaining fidelity of the program.

The EMC Return to Learn guidance is a supplement to the approach to reopening outlined in the [MI Safe Start Plan](#) and the [MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap](#). Districts may be required to move between pandemic-related phases, depending on the public health metrics in the region, and must be prepared to continue to provide high quality instruction in each phase. Each district must make decisions based on local policies, facilities, teachers, programs offered, and student needs. This guidance is intended to be used in all phases of the MI Safe Start Plan.

What makes the EMC model successful is the unique wrap-around support services that are provided to students by the high school and postsecondary partner. Regardless of the mode of instruction (learning at a distance, in-person, or hybrid) please consider the following for all EMC students:

- Continue to provide social/emotional wrap-around support services that are vital for EMC student success. Consider an alternate format if needed and encourage the postsecondary partner to do the same.
- Have regular planning meetings with postsecondary partners. If staggered student scheduling will be in place for the school district, ensure the plan accommodates the dual-enrolled courses.
- Have a policy in place to provide instruction at a distance if the high schools temporarily shut down and the postsecondary school remains open.
- Maintain detailed documentation for each student clearly showing their college schedule and, if applicable, how the student is meeting the requirements for the Michigan Early Middle College Association (MEMCA) certificate.

Districts can assist students in a remote or blended educational system by continuing to provide supportive services. Considerations for your leadership team in the 2020-2021 school year are below. This is not an exhaustive list but meant to initiate discussion among EMC partners.

Continue to monitor the [COVID-19 OCTE EMC FAQs 2020-2021](#) document for updates. If you have questions please contact Lisa Seigel, EMC education consultant, at Seigell@michigan.gov.

General

- Do the high school and college health and safety and personal protective equipment (PPE) policies align?
- Is there a deadline prior to the start of classes for the high schools/colleges to notify one another when they need to cancel classes?
- What are the policies/procedures regarding absences for students, teachers, or college faculty who become ill or must self-quarantine?

Instructional Delivery

- Are the high school and college using the same software for the mode of instructional delivery?
- Will the courses be delivered synchronous or asynchronous?
- How will the high school teacher and college instructor offer scheduled, personalized, and meaningful feedback and check-ins with students?
- Do students have the devices and internet access they need to complete the requirements of the high school and college?
- Do the students have the software/hardware required by both the high school and college?
- Do students need additional course materials such as textbooks?
- What additional resources are needed to promote student success, such as tutors, paraprofessionals, business/industry mentors?

Communication

- What information is shared with students and parents/guardians about EMC/dual enrolled classes in fall 2020?
- How will the EMC coordinator schedule virtual check-ins with each EMC cohort of students?
- Are protocols in place to ensure timely communication between the college instructor and the EMC coordinator, at the high school, regarding student progress and engagement?
- What opportunities are available for the students to meet virtually with the college instructor as the semester begins?
- Do students have information on various methods to contact their high school counselor, EMC coordinator, and college instructor(s)?
- Are there protocols in place to utilize the college's early warning system to minimize course failure and/or class drops?
- Has the high school provided students and parents/guardians with detailed information on how to access all applicable accommodations and services provided by the high school and college?
- Has the high school provided communication to students and parents/guardians regarding district-supported transportation and lunch options?