



Michigan Early Middle College Association (MEMCA)

What is MEMCA?

MEMCA, founded in 2005, is a voluntary alliance of Early Middle College (EMC) educators, led by an executive director and governed by a leadership council. MEMCA's purpose is to significantly increase the collegiate and post-secondary success and completion rate of Michigan youth.



MEMCA provides professional development, research, and credentialing technical assistance to Michigan Department of Education (MDE) approved Early Middle Colleges (EMCs). The MEMCA Leadership Council is responsible for approving EMCs career and college readiness curriculum to confer the MEMCA technical certificate to students.

MEMCA is the state association that works collaboratively with the Michigan Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (MDE – OCTE) and the Middle College National Consortium, to serve EMC practitioners.

How do EMCs join MEMCA?

There are no fees to be a member of MEMCA thanks to the generosity of the Mott Foundation. All EMCs are automatically enrolled as members of MEMCA, once the EMC application is approved by MDE.

What is the MEMCA technical certificate?

The MEMCA technical certificate provides EMCs an additional option in lieu of an associate degree or other technical certificates typically given by community colleges. The certificate allows flexibility to support students in achieving a credential as part of their EMC experience.

The MEMCA technical certificate was originally intended to be used for students who entered an EMC behind on high school credits and at risk of dropping out. MDE and MEMCA recommend that the MEMCA technical certificate may be used as a stackable credential and all EMC students should continue to work toward a degree or professional certification.



MEMCA Technical Certificate Requirements

To receive a MEMCA technical certificate, a student must complete the following:

- The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC)
- A minimum of fifteen non-remedial college credits
- Member school's MEMCA approved college readiness curriculum

And one (1) of the following options:

- One hundred hours of verified community service
- Minimum 40 hours of verified career exploration, internship, job shadowing or clinical experience
- Or a combination of community service and career that equals 70+ hours

How can an EMC be approved to confer the technical certificate?

To award the MEMCA technical certificate, an MDE approved EMC must present a college readiness curriculum to the MEMCA leadership council and receive approval. Minimally, the EMC must be in the second year of operation. The goal is to present to the leadership council prior to the EMC's first year graduating cohort. To register to present to the leadership council contact Diane Weeks, dweeks@geneseeisd.org.

What are MEMCA Networking Groups?

MEMCA Networking Groups provide an opportunity for EMC staff to collaborate and share resources to develop best practices and support EMC practitioners and students. Networking Groups meet one to two times per year in connection with the MEMCA Conference(s). For more information on joining the networking groups please contact Diane Weeks, dweeks@geneseeisd.org.

Counselor Network

Attendees include Counselors and EMC Coordinators supporting EMCs. Topics discussed include student success and support strategies, student scheduling, resource sharing, and more.

Higher Education Liaison EMC Network (HELEN)

Attendees include postsecondary/college staff affiliated with EMCs. Topics discussed include postsecondary roles, student supports provided by colleges, marketing materials, and more.

Teacher Network

Attendees include teachers and secondary staff supporting EMCs. Topics discussed include early college best practices, individual course assignments, classroom curriculum, academic tools, and more.

The Michigan Department of Education is an equal opportunity provider.