

Dual Enrollment and Early Middle College What's the Difference?

	Dual Enrollment	Early Middle College (EMC)
Definition	Dual Enrollment is a program where an eligible high school student can enroll in a college course and receive both high school and college academic credit with district support.	EMCs blend high school and college in a rigorous yet supportive program, compressing the time it takes to complete a high school diploma along with a college credential.
Availability	All school district, public school academy, or state-approved nonpublic school in Michigan must offer dual enrollment opportunities to eligible students.	A school district or ISD must apply to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to receive approval to open an EMC. EMCs are available to students in school districts or ISDs offering this option.
Credits	School districts are required to provide up to 10 classes per student based on student eligibility. Students can choose if they will receive college credit and high school credit or just college credit.	EMCs provide a program of study that includes all courses necessary to meet the requirements of the college degree or credential.
Legislative Policy	The Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act (PA 160 of 1996) provides for payment from a school district's state aid foundation grant for dual enrollment for eligible students taking eligible courses. It does not support courses in a hobby, craft, or recreational course, and that is in a subject area other than physical education, theology, divinity, or religious education.	EMCs provide a five-year program of study resulting in one or more of the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60 transferable college credits • An associate degree • A professional certification • The Michigan Early Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certificate • Participation in a registered apprenticeship Students may earn their outcome earlier than five years.
Cost	School districts pay up to a statewide weighted average foundation allowance. Additional costs are the responsibility of the student/family.	EMCs generally absorb most college course costs rather than transferring those expenses to students or their families.
Degree Pathways	Dual Enrollment classes typically are not part of a particular course of study.	EMCs offer coursework toward specific postsecondary credentials.
Postsecondary Partnerships	The student can choose the college or university that they would like to attend for dual enrollment courses.	Early Colleges establish partnerships with one or more postsecondary institutions to enable students to accumulate credits toward a degree from the partner institution(s) or transfer them to another college.
School Culture	Dual Enrollment allows students to accelerate their learning by earning college and high school credit simultaneously without being in a specific degree program.	Early College blends the high school and college curricula into one academic program using multiple courses leading to specific degree pathways. The model creates a college-going culture by integrating student's high school and college experiences intellectually and socially.
Support Systems	Dual Enrollment courses often do not include additional supports outside of those offered with traditional courses.	Early College provides students with a structured system of enhanced student supports to accompany the increased rigor of college classes.