

EMC Student Fifth Year Frequently Asked Questions Tip Sheet

Michigan Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Education (MDE – OCTE)

Questions are often asked about how students meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) and pupil membership requirements for the fifth year of an Early Middle College (EMC) program. The bullets below are quick answers with links to more detailed information. For questions on pupil membership, it is recommended to contact the Intermediate School District (ISD) Pupil Accounting Auditor.

What Does the 3500 Code Mean?

Students must be **coded 3500**, EMC participating, in the Michigan Student Data System (MSDS), by the fall certification deadline of the student's junior year (3rd year of high school).

- The 3500 code must remain marked in every general collection until graduation.
- The 3500 code places the student in a five-year graduation cohort. [The MMC](#) requires students to enroll in a **math/math-related** course in the final year of high school. For EMC students, the fifth year is the final year; therefore, the student is *not eligible* for graduation until this requirement is complete. See the [fifth-year companion document](#) for additional information on math/math-related courses.

Student Age Requirement to Participate in the fifth year?

The age requirement as defined in Section 6 of the State School Aid Act ([MCL 388.1606](#)) is the pupil must be less than 20 years of age, as of September 1 of the new school year and has not achieved a high school diploma or high school equivalency credential. If the pupil will be 20 before September 1, and is facing extreme barriers to education, the student may be able to stay in an alternative education high school diploma program until age 22. Contact the school district's pupil accounting auditor to confirm the student meets the criteria. Additional information can be found in the [Pupil Accounting Manual \(PAM\) Section 3 Pupil Membership Requirements](#).

What are the Pupil Membership Requirements for Fifth Year FTE?

EMC students coded 3500 by the deadline, will qualify for up to 1.0 FTE during the fifth year if the following conditions are met:

- The pupil meets the age requirements.
- The pupil has not satisfied all graduation requirements.



