



Earning College Credit in High School and the Michigan Achievement Scholarship - Community College Guarantee

Early Middle College (EMC) and Dual Enrollment (DE) students in Michigan are eligible for the [Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#) after high school graduation. The scholarship is for students looking to continue their education after graduation. The Michigan Achievement Scholarship [Community College Guarantee](#) covers in-district tuition, contact hours, and mandatory fees.

The benefits of Early Middle College and Dual Enrollment remain critical to students, schools, and local communities.

Benefits for students participating in EMC and DE in high school:

- Students who have already completed a credential **can earn more than one associate degree or certificate** using the Community College Guarantee.
- **Students have college tuition covered while in high school.** With the Community College Guarantee, students can have an additional three years of college tuition paid post-high school.
- **Students get ahead in their college degree and career pathway by participating in college in high school.**
- **EMC students successfully transition to college because they are taught college readiness skills in a supportive environment.** Students learn self-advocacy and self-efficacy.

According to a Michigan EMC student, the favorite part of their EMC experience was “getting so far ahead, learning how to be independent and successful in college, gaining knowledge regarding college readiness, and being recognized for my hard work.”¹

Benefits for schools with EMC and DE programs:

- **EMCs help build a college-going culture** within the building.
- **EMCs build strong relationships with partner colleges that lead to better success for all students in the school.** High school staff can advocate for students' needs at the college because of the effective connections they have built.
- **EMCs were designed to support students who may not have considered college,** thereby introducing college to underserved populations within the school.

Benefits for schools with EMC and DE programs (continued):

- **EMC students and DE students have higher on-time high school graduation rates compared to students who do not participate in these programs.¹**

Benefits for communities with EMCs:

- **Nationally, 84% of EMC students enrolled in either a 2-year or 4-year college within 6 years of graduating from high school compared to only 77% of non-EMC students.**
- **Within 4 years of expected high school graduation, 21% of EMC students obtained a bachelor's degree compared to only 11% of non-EMC students.²**
- **In Michigan, 77.1% of DE students enrolled in college within 12 months of graduating from high school, compared to only 55.8% of non-DE students.³**
- **“Early college students [earn] their degrees more rapidly. The early college model shortened students’ time to degree by two years for associate degrees and by six months for bachelor’s degrees. Despite the shortened time in school, early college students did equally well in college. Both groups had essentially the same postsecondary GPA.”⁴**

For more information regarding EMCs, visit the [Early Middle College webpage](#) or contact Dr. Stacey Stover, EMC Manager, MDE at StoverS@Michigan.gov. For more information regarding Dual Enrollment, visit the [Dual Enrollment webpage](#) or contact Jeff McNeal, Education Consultant, Michigan Department of Education at McNeaJ1@Michigan.gov.

For more information on the Community College Guarantee, visit [Michigan Achievement Scholarship](#) or contact MI Student Aid at 888-447-2687 or mistudentaid@michigan.gov.

“My EMC gave me more confidence in myself as a whole and a head start in my college education!”
EMC student.

This student earned 61 college credits while in high school!

¹ American Institutes for Research, *The Lasting Benefits of Early College High Schools: Considerations and Recommendations for Policymakers*, accessed October 3, 2024, <https://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/Lasting-Benefits-Early-College-High-Schools-Brief-Feb-2020.pdf> and American Institutes for Research, *The Impact of Early Colleges* (Washington, DC: American Institutes for Research), <https://indd.adobe.com/view/be261913-7364-4f51-854d-861b1a539188>; MI School Data, “College Opportunities for High School Students,” accessed November 15, 2024, <https://www.mischooldata.org/dual-enrollment/>.

² American Institutes for Research, *The Lasting Benefits of Early College High Schools: Considerations and Recommendations for Policymakers*, accessed October 3, 2024, <https://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/Lasting-Benefits-Early-College-High-Schools-Brief-Feb-2020.pdf> and American Institutes for Research, *The Impact of Early Colleges* (Washington, DC: American Institutes for Research), <https://indd.adobe.com/view/be261913-7364-4f51-854d-861b1a539188>.

³ “College Opportunities for High School Students.”

⁴ SERVE Center, *What Happens When You Combine High School and College? The Impact of Early Colleges on Postsecondary Performance and Completion* (Greensboro: The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2020), https://serve.uncg.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SER20001_PolicyBrief_FINAL.pdf.