

COURSE OPTIONS PROGRAM

Code #423.01

The Tri-County Area School District will participate in the Wisconsin Course Options Program in accordance with applicable law and the relevant policies and rules of the District, all as amended from time to time.

For students attending the District full-time through the Open Enrollment program, and for the purposes of this Policy only, the District of attendance is considered the resident school district.

Course Options Applications Submitted By Nonresident Students to Attend the District

Application Procedures - The District will accept course options applications from nonresidents enrolled in a public school for individual courses. Applications must be submitted on the form provided by the DPI. The applications must specify the course(s) and school the student wishes to attend. Nonresidents may not attend more than two (2) courses at any time in the District under the Course Options program.

The applications must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on the date six (6) weeks prior to the start of the course. Applications should be mailed or submitted in person at the District office, 409 S. West Street, Plainfield, WI 54966.

It is the responsibility of the student and student's parent/guardian to find out when the course is scheduled to begin. Untimely or incomplete applications will not be processed, nor will the review process be delayed by failure to submit supporting documentation. Late applications will be returned to the parent/guardian (or student, if age 18 or older), indicating the required application date and explaining the reason the application is being returned.

The District will send a copy of complete and timely applications to the resident school district within three (3) school days or as soon as possible. As soon as possible after receiving the application, the District will provide the resident school district with an estimate of the cost of the course, which will either be the actual cost of the course or one-seventh (1/7) of the full-time open enrollment amount per credit taken, whichever is less. (If the course is a one-half credit course, the cost of the course will be the actual cost of the course or fifty percent (50%) of one-seventh (1/7) of the full-time open enrollment amount).

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Processing of Nonresident Applications - Acceptance or denial of nonresident course options applications will be made according to the criteria specified below. No later than one (1) week prior to the start of the course, the District will notify the applicant and resident school district, in writing, whether the application has been accepted or denied. Any acceptance only applies to the following semester, school year, or other session in which the course is offered.

(Note: In order for a student to participate the course options program, both the District and the resident school district must approve the application.)

Nonresident Acceptance Criteria - The District will initially determine approval of applications by nonresidents based upon the criteria stated in this subsection. The applications of nonresidents denied under such criteria will be removed from the pool of eligible applications. If spaces are available in the course after all qualified non-course options students have been enrolled, but the District receives more applications than there are spaces available in the course, the District will fill the remaining spaces by randomly selecting eligible nonresident course options applicants. Spaces in courses may be available at specific schools, and there is no guarantee of open seats at a specific school. Space will be determined using the same class size criteria as under the Open Enrollment program.

The District shall consider the following criteria for nonresident course options applications:

1. The same criteria applied to non-course options students selecting courses.
2. Whether the student is currently enrolled in a Wisconsin public school.
3. Whether the student meets the District's admission requirements and has satisfied any prerequisite requirements for the course.
4. Whether the nonresident student is already enrolled in two (2) courses in the District.
5. Whether the application was timely (submitted by 4:00 p.m. on the date six weeks prior to the start of the course).
6. Whether the application is incomplete and the parent/guardian (or student, if age 18 or older) failed to provide the requested additional information in a timely manner (4:00p.m. on the date six weeks prior to the start of the course).

The District may request records or transcripts from the resident school district that are necessary to determine whether the student meets the criteria for admission in the District and enrollment in the requested course(s). The District

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may also request a copy of any expulsion findings and orders pertaining to the student, a copy of records of any pending disciplinary proceeding, and the length of the term of expulsion or the possible outcomes of the pending disciplinary proceeding.

Notice- Notice shall be given by the District, the resident school district, and the student's parent/guardian (or the student, if age 18 or older) as follows:

1. Notice by the District - No later than one (1) week prior to the start of the course, the District shall notify the student's parent/guardian (or the student, if age 18 or older) and the resident school board, in writing, whether the application has been accepted or denied. If the notice is postmarked at least three (3) days before the date on which the parent/guardian or student is required to receive the notice, it will be considered a timely notification.

If the application is denied, the notice will include a reason for the denial. If the application is accepted, the notice shall include the name of the school the student will attend and the names of the course(s) in which he/she will enroll.

2. Notice by the Resident School District - If the resident school district denies the application, no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the course, the resident school district shall notify the student's parent/guardian (or the student, if age 18 or older) and the District that the application has been denied and the reason for the denial.
3. Notice by the Student's Parent/Guardian - Following receipt of a notice of acceptance from the District, but no later than the last school day before the course begins, the student's parent/guardian (or the student, if age 18 or older) shall notify the District and the resident school board whether the student will attend the course(s) in the District.

Reapplication Procedures - The District's approval of an application to attend a course at the District applies only to the semester, year or other session for which the course is offered. The District will require nonresident students to reapply under this policy for each additional semester, year or other session for which a course is offered.

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Transportation - The parents or guardians of a nonresident student attending a course in the District will be solely responsible for providing transportation to and from the school site.

Rights and Privileges of Nonresident Students - Nonresident students attending courses in the District on a part-time basis will have all the rights and privileges of resident students and will be subject to the same rules and regulations as resident students.

Reporting of grades and credits earned - Nonresident students will be issued a grade report and/or transcript upon completion of a course-options course.

Course Options Applications Submitted by Resident Students to Attend a Nonresident School District or Other Educational Institution

Resident students may submit an application to attend up to two (2) courses at an educational institution, including a nonresident school district, the University of Wisconsin System, a technical college, a nonprofit institution of higher education, a tribal college, a charter school, and any nonprofit organization that has been approved by DPI. The application shall be submitted directly to the educational institution, in accordance with the policies of the educational institution, and a copy of the application shall be submitted to the District.

Processing of Resident Applications - Acceptance or denial of resident students' course options application will be made according to criteria specified below. No later than one (1) week prior to the start of the course, the District will notify the student's parent/guardian (or the student, if age 18 or older) and the educational institution, in writing, whether the application has been denied.

Resident Acceptance Criteria - The District will consider approval or denial of applications of resident students enrolled in the District to attend courses at an educational institution based upon only the following criteria:

1. Whether the course would conflict with the IEP of a child with a disability. (The District must deny the application if it determines that the course conflicts with the student's IEP.)
2. Whether the course satisfies a high school graduation requirement under Section 118.33, Wisconsin Statutes.

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3. Whether the course conforms to the student's academic and career plan under Section 115.28 (59) (a) if any.

Notice - Notice shall be given by the District and the student's parent/guardian (or the student, if age 18 or older) as follows:

1. Notice by the District - If the District approves the application, no later than one (1) week prior to the start of a course in a nonresident district, the District will notify the student's parent/guardian (or student, if age 18 or older) whether the course will satisfy District high school graduation requirements (if applicable). If the District denies the application, no later than one (1) week prior to the start of the course, the District shall notify the student's parent/guardian (or the student, if age 18 or older) and the educational institution, in writing, that the application has been denied and the reason for the denial. If the notice is postmarked at least three (3) days before the date on which the parent/student is required to receive the notice, it will be considered timely notification.
2. Notice by the Student's Parent/Guardian - Following receipt of a notice of acceptance by the educational institution, but no later than the last school day before the course begins, the student's parent/guardian (or the student, if age 18 or older) shall notify the District and the educational institution whether the student will attend the course(s) at the educational institution.

Records - If requested by the educational institution, the District will promptly provide records or transcripts as necessary to determine whether the student meets the educational institution's criteria for admission to the educational institution and enrollment in the requested course, as well as records relating to an expulsion or pending disciplinary proceeding that may lead to an expulsion.

Tuition Payment - The District will pay to the educational institution, for each resident student attending a course at the educational institution under this Policy, an amount equal to the cost of providing the course to the student.

Reapplication Procedures - The District's approval of an application to attend a course at an educational institution applies only to the semester, year or other session for which the course is offered. The District will require resident students to reapply under this policy for each additional semester, year or other session for which a course is offered.

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Transportation - The parents or guardians of a resident student attending a course at an educational institution will be solely responsible for providing transportation to and from the educational institution.

School Credit Earned for Courses - High school credit for successful completion of approved course options courses will be granted to students in the following manner:

1. High School Courses completed at non-resident schools:
 - a. High school courses completed at non-resident schools through course options will transfer directly to the resident high school transcript.
 - b. An official transcript with the course title, credits, grade and school indicated, must document successful completion of Course Options courses. Credits will not be recorded until the guidance department has received an official transcript. Seniors who are graduating must supply the transcript no later than the Friday before graduation. The course title, credit, grade and school will be noted on the District transcript.
 - c. Grades earned for approved outside courses will be recorded using the grading system adopted by Tri-County Area Schools and will count in the student's grade point average.

2. Tribal college, university or technical college: Credit offered by the course will be granted in a manner similar to the Youth Options program.

Legal references: 118.13 118.45(4) 118.52 Wisconsin Statutes

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