

Youth Options Program

Code #343.42

The youth options program is open to any Tri-County Area School District 11th or 12th grade student who meets established requirements. These requirements include being in good academic standings (not failing any courses) and having good attendance. They may then attend a Wisconsin institution of higher education or technical college for the purpose of taking one or more nonsectarian courses.

Youth options is a separate program and should not be confused with other programs which provide high school students an opportunity to earn college credit, such as College Board's Advanced Placement program, International Baccalaureate programs, educational television programs, UW-Extension courses, or special service contracts with colleges and universities. It is also not to be confused with other circumstances where high school students attend courses at technical colleges to meet high school graduation requirements through contracts or other special arrangements.

Accordingly, the Tri-County Area School District adopts the following procedures and requirements that shall be followed to implement this program:

Student/Parent Responsibilities

1. Students must contact the institution of higher education or technical college from which admission is being sought to determine the application and admission requirements of that institution.
2. The student must notify (in writing) the High School Principal or School Counselor of his/her intention to attend an institution of higher education or technical college under the youth options program prior to enrolling in a youth options program. Notification must be made no later than March 1 if the student intends to enroll in the fall semester and no later than October 1 if the student intends to enroll in the spring semester. Notification may be waived at the discretion of the administration or School Counselor. This notification must include the following information:
 - a. Pupil's name, address, date of birth, telephone number and grade in school.
 - b. The name of the pupil's parent or guardian.
 - c. The name of the institution of higher education or technical college the pupil plans to attend.
 - d. The title of the post-secondary course(s) in which the pupil intends to enroll.
 - e. The number of post-secondary credits for each course.

- f. Whether the post-secondary course will be taken for high school or college credit.
 - g. Written parent/guardian approval if the student plans to attend technical college.
3. As soon as possible, the student must notify the High School Principal whether he/she has been admitted to the institution of higher education or technical college and whether he/she is registered take the course(s).
 4. The parent shall be responsible for the student compliance with the compulsory school attendance requirement under state law.
 5. It is understood by the student and parent/guardian that any grade earned in a Youth Options course will be included in the calculation of the student's high school grade point average (GPA) at a rate of one-quarter (1/4) of a high school credit per one (1) credit earned at the college level and will be reflected in the student's high school transcript.

School Counselor's Responsibilities

1. The Board designates the School Counselor to administer the youth options program. However, no student shall be admitted into a youth options program without approval of the high school principal.
2. The School Counselor will notify the student that the youth options course selected will be awarded one-quarter (1/4) of a high school credit per one (1) semester credit offered by a post-secondary course. This will be determined in accordance with DPI regulations and Board policy.
3. The School Counselor shall annually, by October 1 (for spring semester) or March 1 (for fall semester), provide information about the youth options program to all pupils enrolled in the District in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades.
4. The School Counselor shall enroll the pupil full-time within the District until it receives notification from the pupil that he/she is actually registered in the youth options course(s).
5. The School Counselor shall inform the student and his/her parents or guardians if the student's timetable for graduation may be negatively affected if the student chooses to participate in the youth options program.
6. The School Counselor shall inform the District office of potential youth options

Payment of Costs/Tuition/Fees

Courses taken as part of the youth options enrollment program shall be paid for as follows:

1. If the course is taken for high school credit or dual credit and the course is not comparable to one offered in the District, the Board of Education shall pay the costs of tuition, books and fees associated with the course. Payment will be made directly to the higher education institution upon proof of successful completion of the course(s). The credits shall be credited toward the graduation requirements.
2. If the course is taken for high school credit or dual credit and the course is comparable to one offered in the District, the student shall pay the costs associated with the course. (Technical college courses numbered with prefixes of 10, 20, 21, 30, 31, 32 are considered comparable to a course offered in the school district.) The credits shall be credited toward the graduation requirements.
3. Youth option credits (not to exceed the equivalent of 18 post-secondary semester credits) will be paid for by the District and shall be credited in the graduation requirements.
4. Students participating in the youth options program shall be responsible for their own transportation costs. If they are unable to pay such costs and are receiving high school credit, they may be able to apply to the State Superintendent for reimbursement of transportation costs.
5. If a student receives a failing grade in a youth option course or fails to complete a course at an institution of higher education or technical college for which the Board has made payment, the student's parent/guardian or the student if he/she is an adult shall reimburse the Board the amount paid on the student's behalf. If the payment is not reimbursed as requested, the student is ineligible for further participation in the youth options program.

If a student is not satisfied with a District decision regarding comparability of courses, satisfaction of high school graduation requirements, the number of high school credits to be awarded or payment of tuition questions, he/she may appeal such decision within 30 days to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Legal Reference: Sections 118.33, 118.37, and 118.55, Wisconsin Statutes
PI 40.04 (1)(a)(2)g, and 40.08 Wisconsin Administrative Code

Cross Reference: 345.00, Honor Rolls
 345.51, Class Rank
 345.06, Graduation Requirements

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