



EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Model Policy

ExcelinEd Policy Toolkit - 2019

This document contains a model policy for the creation of an early college high school or early college high school program. [Download this model policy as an editable Microsoft Word Document.](#)

SUMMARY

An early college high school is four-year public high school whereby students are concurrently enrolled in high school and a postsecondary institution. Students are eligible to graduate with a high school diploma and an associate's or bachelor's degree from an institution of higher education.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is recommended that early college policy be accompanied by legislation to convene partners across K-12, postsecondary, and workforce/industry to ensure alignment across students' educational experiences and lead to in-demand and high-wage careers (see model policy [here](#)).

MODEL POLICY - EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the (state):

Section 1:

- A. As used in this section the terms have the following meanings:
 - a. "Early college high school" means:
 - i. A secondary school, or program within a school, that provides only a curriculum that requires each student to enroll in and complete secondary and postsecondary courses while enrolled in secondary school such that, upon successful completion of the curriculum, the student will have completed the requirements of a high school diploma and an associate's degree or other postsecondary credential or at least sixty credits toward the completion of a baccalaureate degree.
 - b. "Articulation agreement" means an agreement entered into by a local education agency (district) and an institution of higher education.
 - c. "Institution of higher education" means
 - i. A state university or college, community college, local district college, or area technical college; or
 - ii. A postsecondary career and technical education program.
- B. The early college program must:
 - a. provide for a course of study that enables a participating student to combine high school courses and college-level courses;
 - b. allow a participating student to complete high school and, on or before the fifth anniversary of the date of the student's first day of high school, receive a high school diploma and either:
 - i. an associate degree; or
 - ii. at least 60 semester credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree;
 - c. include articulation agreements with institutions of higher education in this state to provide a participating student access to postsecondary educational and training opportunities at a college, university, or technical school;
 - d. provide a participating student flexibility in class scheduling and academic mentoring; and
 - e. prioritize historically underserved student groups, first-generation college students, and economically disadvantaged students.



- C. The institution of higher education and local education agency (district) must enter into an articulation agreement with a signed memorandum of understanding approved by the commissioner (*department of education*). Each articulation agreement must address:
 - a. admission policies;
 - b. curriculum alignment;
 - c. instructional materials;
 - d. the instructional calendar;
 - e. courses of study;
 - f. eligibility of students for higher education financial assistance;
 - g. student enrollment and attendance;
 - h. grading periods and policies; and
 - i. cost sharing agreement.
- D. The commissioner (*department of education*) shall consult with higher education, business, industry, and workforce development to provide recommendations for specific early college degree programs and pathways.
- E. All early college high schools must be approved and designated by the commissioner (*department of education*).
- F. The commissioner (*department of education*) may adopt rules as necessary to administer the program. The rules shall provide for giving preference in receiving program benefits to a student who is in the first generation of the student's family to attend college and may establish other distinctions or criteria based on student need.
- G. Annually the department of education shall be required to publish a report and submit to the legislature and governor on early college high schools. The disaggregated by student group report should include information such as
 - a. admission policies;
 - b. student enrollment and demographics;
 - c. institution of higher education credits, credentials, and degrees earned;
 - d. graduation rate; and
 - e. institution of higher education enrollment and persistence.
- H. State funding for high school and college credit will be available to the local education agency (district) and institution of higher education based on the current funding rules. An additional allocation of (\$ *amount*) will be awarded per enrolled student. Attendance at an early college high school will be at no cost for the student.

Section 2:

The Act becomes effective _____.