

# **JACKSON COUNTY EARLY COLLEGE**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS for PARENTS**

### Program

- What is an Early/Middle College and what are the benefits? *A. An EMC program allows students an opportunity to earn an Associate's degree or certificate along with their high school diploma. Students have an additional year of high school for program completion, and they have access to support services which enhance their success. Tuition and fees are paid by the local school district up to an allocated amount. Students are enrolled in a focused program of study.*
- Why an Early/Middle College? Why should you consider it? *A. College costs continue to rise, and education beyond high school is more important than ever. Many careers require 1-2 years of post-secondary education, and the business community needs people who are skilled.*
- What is the benefit of Early College over dual enrollment? *A: Students are immersed into the college environment. As high school students, they are on campus and learn to take classes with adults and behave like adults in an adult learning environment. It helps students bridge the learning and social gaps between high school and college.*
- How is this beneficial to the community? *A: Our business partners have said that they want to develop talented, educated individuals who want to stay here in our community to live and work.*
- How is Jackson County Early College being funded? *A. It is funded through the per pupil allowance provided by the state under the early college guidelines.*
- Can you provide a list of all the program options available to students? *A. Jackson College and the local district administrators have determined that all programs offered are an option. A list of those are available at <https://www.jccmi.edu/academics/programs-of-study/>*
- Where are the classes held? *A. Class may be virtual, on-campus, or hybrid (partly virtual and partly on campus). Classes may be held during the school day or students may choose evening courses.*
- How will students and parents learn about JCEC? *A. There will be informational meetings, announcements at local school, school district website, email, and social media. Jean Logan, Early College Administrator, meets with students and parents in formal and informal settings to share information about the program. In addition, information regarding Jackson County Early College is available at <http://www.jxncec.org> and local district webpages.*
- Is transportation provided? *A. Some transportation may be available with the daily trips to the Career Center. Otherwise, parents must arrange student transportation for on-campus classes.*
- Are there any attendance and behavior requirements once they enter Jackson County Early College? *A. Yes, see the handbook for details. The handbook is available at [www.jxncec.org](http://www.jxncec.org).*
- What is the first day of class? *A. Classes may begin on different days, depending upon the course. A date will be available on their website.*

- When are applications due? *JCEC has rolling enrollment, which means students may join throughout the year, but may not begin classes until they have completed the JCEC orientation.*
- When will parents have an orientation? *A. After students have been notified that they will be part of the early college program, an orientation meeting will be scheduled with parents.*

## Students

- How do I know if my child is right for this program? *A. This is a decision made with the student, parents, and high school counselors. Consideration has to be given to each student in regard to college/career plans, attendance, disciplinary issues, maturity, and life circumstances. First generation college students, underrepresented students, and at-risk students certainly should be considered – and encouraged to apply.*
- What academic skill levels must students have to qualify to participate in JCEC? *A. The academic program at Jackson County Early College can be fairly rigorous. This is determined by the student's approach to his/her college classes as well as the career pathway that has been selected.*
- What is the application process? *A. A comprehensive process has been developed to make sure each student is placed appropriately. Districts have been provided with application documents and timelines for applying.*
- Are there any minimum or maximum income requirements to apply? *A. No.*
- What will be the cost for students/parents? *A. Depending upon the number of college classes a student enrolls in, there should be little to no cost. Parents will be required to sign a third-party billing agreement acknowledging that they may be responsible for costs that exceed the foundation allotment.*
- Can home schooled or private school students apply? *A: Financial support for this program comes from the state student funding allowance. Because of this funding stream, this program is for public school students. Home schooled or private school students would have to enroll in their local district in order to apply.*
- What types of supports are in place for students? *A. Life Maps course is the first class students take. The local districts and Jackson College have created a framework to provide students with academic support skills, college survival techniques, and resource staff. Students will attend Success Camp where students to become acquainted with Jackson College's campus, build relationships with Jackson College staff and peers from other districts who are also JCEC students. Staff employed by the districts and the college will meet with students on a regular basis to monitor academic progress, develop strategies, connect students with resources, and assist with transition from high school to college.*
- If a student is TIP eligible (they get free college), does the district pay for their college classes? Or are they not TIP eligible until after they have their diploma? *A. Districts pay for coursework taken in Early College up to the amount allotted in the state formula. Starting with the class of 2017, students who attend an Early/Middle College have until age 21 to graduate and complete a TIP application, rather than age 20. Students in this situation must contact the office of MI Student Aid in the Student Financial Services Bureau of the Michigan Department of Treasury when completing the application.*

- What happens if a TIP-eligible student fails a college class while in JCEC? A. *Failing a college course while enrolled in Jackson County Early College DOES NOT jeopardize a student's opportunity to access TIP funds.*
- Will students continue to get free and reduced lunch if they qualify? A. Yes.

## Curriculum

- What, ultimately, is the goal for students enrolled in Jackson County Early College? A. *Depending upon the student, the possibilities include an Associate's degree, a certification, or credits that can be transferred to another post-secondary educational institution. Jackson College also has several certificate programs which only require 1-2 semesters of college coursework.*
- Please clarify: 13th year...does it require a math credit? Do you have to have a class at your home school? A. *The 13<sup>th</sup> year DOES require a math-related course, but it does not have to be scheduled at the home district. It is VERY important for students to work closely with their counselors to make sure they meet all of the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements.*
- Does the 4th credit/final year mathematics course need to be an actual mathematics course? A. *No. The law provides local districts with the flexibility to determine what counts for the 4th/final year mathematics credit, including the content and duration. It does not need to be aligned with the mathematics standards because those are covered in the other 3 credits.*

*The credit could be in a basic or an applied math area, such as Business Math, Accounting, Pre-algebra, etc. The course could also be an advanced mathematics course such as Pre-calculus, or college-level courses through dual enrollment or early middle college programs.*

*Non-mathematics courses or experiences where students apply mathematics can also counts as the 4th credit/Senior year mathematics course such as computer programming, science or art courses; Career and Technical Education (CTE), work study program, or practicum where the students are using the mathematics they have already learned.*
- What is considered the "final year" in the context of the mathematics credit for students in Early Middle College? A. *Early middle college students must take a mathematics or math-related course in their 13th year.*
- What types of classes will students be taking as a high school/college student? A. *Coursework will include required classes to complete the Michigan Merit Curriculum expected outcomes, as well as college courses in the career pathway selected by the student. Some districts allow college courses to count toward the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements (like Economics, Government, English, etc.).*
- Where can I get more information? A. *Contact your local High School Counseling Office or Jean Logan – [info@jxncec.org](mailto:info@jxncec.org) or 517-581-2003.*

Financial

- Is there a reimbursement requirement if my student fails a class? What counts as failing? *A. The Michigan Department of Education allows for reimbursement to districts should a student fail a college course. Failing = no credit in the class. Contact your high school counselor for your district's requirements. Students need to earn a 2.0 in each course for it to count as college credit.*
- Can a school district deny a student from taking dual enrolled courses if they did not receive credit for courses taken in a previous semester? *A. A student that does not receive college credit for a course under the Dual Enrollment legislation is required to repay the school district funds that were expended for the course that were not already refunded by the eligible postsecondary institution. If the student does not repay the funds as described in [MCL 388.514], the district may impose sanctions as determined by school policy. A student may take dual enrolled courses (including ones that were previously taken unsuccessfully) if the funds are repaid and if they still meet all other eligibility requirements.*
- How many college credits can a student earn? *A: Students in this program may earn up to 65 college credits depending upon the program of study.*
- Can credits be transferred to 4 year university? *A. Students will need to work closely with the Success Navigator to ensure they are in a program that will be able to transfer to other universities. It is extremely important that a student works closely with his/her advisor to ensure that all credits transfer. Many courses students take at the college level are Michigan Transfer Agreement classes that will transfer to any public college or university in Michigan.*
- Can students participate in extra-curricular activities? *A. JCEC students are eligible to participate in clubs and organizations sponsored by the college. Recent legislation DOES ALLOW students to participate in college athletics during the 13<sup>th</sup> year.*
- Can students still participate in high school sports? *A. Yes – through their senior year. Students are not eligible for high school sports during the 13<sup>th</sup> year.*
- What if a student determines at the end of his/her senior year to not continue with JCEC? *A. It is VERY important to make sure students have met their Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements by the end of their senior year in the event a circumstance like this arises. If a student chooses to leave the program at the end of their 12<sup>th</sup> year and have met all of their graduation requirements, they may opt out with no penalty.*
- Will students receive a diploma from their high schools? *A. Yes, at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> year, although students may participate in their commencement exercises at the end of their senior year with their peers.*
- Will students be participating in classes with other college students? *A. Yes*
- Will students have access to facilities like the library and the parking? *A. JCEC students will receive an ID card that will provide them access to the library, parking and other services.*