

Running Start FAQ

For more information, please review the [Running Start Presentation](#) and [Running Start Agreement on the EHS RS website](#).

I am not doing well in my current EHS classes. Is Running Start for me?

Having strong academics is essential for being a Running Start student. You don't need a 4.0 but if you struggle in high school, this might not be the best option.

If I don't like Running Start or am not doing well, can I come back to EHS mid year?

Generally we would say no. Our LWSD calendar does not sync up with the college calendar and this can create major issues with credits and graduation requirements. We advise only starting in the Fall quarter.

Can I start Running Start at any quarter?

WE STRONGLY ADVISE AGAINST IT. Again, the college and LWSD calendars do not sync and this can cause major issues with credits and graduation requirements. Fall quarter is the right time to start off on the right foot.

Will my EHS Counselor help me register for my college classes?

NO. EHS Counselors advise on graduation requirements. It is up to the student to work with their college advisor to register for classes and use the course equivalency to find the classes that correspond with needed graduation requirements written on your RSEVF.

Is Running Start for me if I don't know what I may want to major in, or even go to college?

Yes! If you are strong student this can be a great way to explore other options for careers and get a feel for what college is like. Also some schools even have classes in the trade field.

What is the difference between being a Running Start student vs a normal high school student?

When students commit to being a Running Start student that means they are committing to being a college student. This means parents are not permitted to view your grades or communicate with the college. Also the college system runs on quarters instead of semesters. This gives students a shorter timeline for course completion.

I am a current 9th or 10th grader and I want to prepare to do Running Start. What should I do?

Students need to be self sufficient. Once you are doing Running Start you are seen as a college student. To be eligible for FULL TIME Running Start starting 11th grade students should try to complete: Algebra 2, Art, Health, 1.5 PE credits, 2 credits of the same World Language.

If I am a current 10th grader planning on doing Running Start in 11th grade, can I start taking classes summer before 11th grade?

Yes! You will have to work with your counselor to complete the summer RSEVF, but you can take classes summer before junior year as a Running Start student.

Are parents allowed to contact professors or access my Running Start grades?

No. As a Running Start student, the college you attend will treat you as a college student which means they do not meet with or email with parents. The college has asked high schools to share the following guidelines regarding instructor-parent communication:

- Instructors and other college staff **cannot** communicate with parents about a student's educational records in person, via email, or by phone.
- Grade appeals and student complaints **must** be handled by the student and communicated by the student to the instructor, department chair, or dean.

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- Parents **should not** come to the instructor's classroom or office in hopes of discussing a student's work.

Running Start and Participating in Eastlake Athletics

Yes, you can but you need to make sure you communicate with Mrs. Hill in the Athletics office. Running Start is on a different academic calendar than LWSD.

Prior to your season you will need to complete the [WIAA Running Start contract](#) and provide grades on grade check dates.

See the [How to Register for a Sport](#) page on the Eastlake website here for specific directions for Running Start students on completing the contract.

All communication will take place in person with Mrs. Hill or through your LWSD email account so please check your email!

How do I meet my high school graduation requirements?

You are still required to meet all high school graduation requirements if you are earning an LWSD high school diploma. You will use the Course Equivalency chart to know which RS classes meet high school grad requirements.

Can my EHS counselor help with academic planning if I want to earn my AA degree while doing Running Start?

No. Your EHS counselor can help with academic planning for your high school graduation requirements, but all students will have access to a Running Start advisor who can help plan classes/credits to earn an AA degree.

How do Running Start credits transfer to college?

College credits earned through Running Start are not guaranteed to apply to EVERY four-year college. Transfer of credits depends on the college you choose to attend. In-state public colleges are a part of the same higher education system as the running start campuses and have transfer credit guidelines established and posted for you to review. Some private colleges and out of state public colleges will accept Running Start credits as transfer credits, and others will not. The only way to know is to consult with each college of interest to you.

Do my grades at Running Start affect my GPA at Eastlake High School?

Courses completed at Running Start are transcribed for grades and credit on both your high school and college transcripts. These grades will factor into your cumulative GPA on both transcripts.

How many credits can/should I take?

Washington state law dictates that students must meet a certain number of total classes across educational opportunities to meet overall "full-time student" status. Additionally, WA state law sets a cap for total number of credits that can be taken tuition-free through Running Start (incorporating any EHS classes into this equation). Counselors can provide more specific details, but generally speaking a full-time Running Start student will take 15 college credits each quarter (equivalent to 3.0 HS credits). Part-time Running Start students generally take either 2 classes at EHS and 2 at BC each quarter (2x2), though other options do exist. Consult your counselor for more specific information.

Can I take Algebra 2 through Running Start?

College-level math starts above the Algebra 2 level, usually at Pre-Calculus. Running Start funds can only be used for college-level classes (those with a course code at the 100 level or above). Courses numbered below the 100 level represent high school level classes, and students are expected to take these courses at high school. While we recommend against it, students can opt to take Algebra 2 equivalent classes (in the 90-level) as "enrichment students," which means the family pays tuition and can involve a separate application. For courses below the 100 level, the credit value at high school is reduced. Where a 5-credit class at the 100-level or above equates to 1.0 high school credit, a course below the 100 level equates to a 0.5 semester credit on the high school transcript.

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Can I take online classes at Running Start? Will they still count the same on my transcript as in-person classes?

Yes! Some classes at the colleges are offered either only online or have online sections. You are more than welcome to take those classes as long as they are a learning style that works well for you.