Early College School Choice Compact

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools & Central Piedmont Community College

Central Piedmont • Harper • Levine • Merancas

Purpose

The Early College program is a partnership between Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) and Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) that allows students to earn a CMS high school diploma while completing college coursework and, when eligible, an associate degree, career credential, or transferable college credit.

By signing this compact, students and parents/guardians acknowledge their understanding of the academic, attendance, behavioral, and personal responsibilities required for success in the Early College program.

I. Program Overview & School Commitments

Early College students participate in both a high school and college environment. As members of CMS and CPCC, students must follow the policies, procedures, calendars, grading practices, and expectations of both institutions.

CMS and the Early College schools will provide:

- Access to tuition-free CPCC coursework as permitted through the program.
- High school and college academic advising and course planning.
- Required instructional materials for approved CPCC courses.
- Access to tutoring, intervention, and college readiness supports.
- Technology (CMS Chromebook) and transportation (CMS Magnet Express stops).

II. Student and Family Commitments

Students and families agree to actively participate in and support the Early College experience:

Enrollment and Participation

- Attend required information sessions and orientation activities.
- Complete all enrollment, registration, and program documents by established deadlines.
- Commit to participation in the Early College program for four years (early graduation after three years is not permitted).

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Communication

- Regularly monitor school and college communications, including email.
- Maintain communication with teachers, instructors, counselors, advisors, and administrators.
- Seek assistance promptly when academic or personal concerns arise.

Academic Responsibility

- Acknowledge that coursework is accelerated and high school classes are generally Honors level.
- Acknowledge that CPCC courses follow college grading, attendance, and integrity policies.
- Maintain the academic standards required by CMS and CPCC.
- Complete assignments independently and on time.
- Monitor academic progress in both high school and college courses.
- Participate in required tutoring, intervention, or support programs when assigned.
- Meet course prerequisites, registration requirements, and program deadlines.
- Follow all CMS and CPCC academic integrity expectations.

Attendance and Behavior

- Attend all classes regularly and on time.
- Follow CMS and CPCC attendance policies.
- Follow the CMS and CPCC Codes of Conduct.
- Demonstrate mature, respectful, and professional behavior in all settings.
- *Understand that students accumulating excessive absences or demonstrating ongoing conduct concerns may result in probation, continuation review, or removal from the program.*

Family Partnership

- Families agree to support student attendance, communication, and academic progress.
- Participate in orientation, conferences, meetings, and school engagement opportunities as needed.
- Encourage students to take increasing responsibility for their education and college success.

III. Characteristics of Successful Early College Students

Students who are most successful in Early College typically:

- Have demonstrated successful completion of previous EOG-tested courses, generally earning at least a Level 3, and are prepared for rigorous Honors and college-level coursework.
- Demonstrate strong attendance and positive behavior.
- Manage time effectively and meet deadlines independently.
- Communicate proactively with instructors and advisors, and advocate for themselves.
- Demonstrate maturity, flexibility, and personal accountability.

IV. Course Progression

- **Grade 9:** Students primarily complete Honors-level high school coursework while developing the academic and organizational skills necessary for college success, including some college preparation courses.
- **Grade 10:** Most students begin taking **one to two CPCC courses per semester** while continuing to complete approximately **two to three high school courses per semester**.
- **Grade 11:** Most students take fewer high school courses, typically **one to two, while completing most** of their coursework through CPCC.
- **Grade 12:** Students typically complete the remaining CMS graduation requirements while continuing to take CPCC coursework aligned with their individual four-year plan and associate degree, transfer, or credential goals.
- **Grade 13 – Optional Year:** Eligible students may have the opportunity to participate in an optional **Grade 13 year** to complete:
    - Transferable college credits;
    - Career or industry certifications;
    - Associate degree requirements; and/or
    - Other approved college coursework.

All CMS high school graduation requirements must be completed by the end of Grade 12 to qualify for Grade 13. Students participating in Grade 13 must continue to meet CPCC and Early College academic progress requirements. Students must complete an Early College seminar/course designed to support the transition to college during the first semester of Grade 13, as required by the program.

V. Admission and Continuation Requirements

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Admission

Students seeking admission must:

- Apply through the CMS School Choice Lottery
- Complete all required application materials
- Meet CMS and CPCC eligibility requirements
- Submit all requested documentation by deadlines

Students should review the current Early College application requirements provided by CMS and Central Piedmont Community College. Admission through the School Choice Lottery does not guarantee continued enrollment. Students must meet the academic, attendance, behavioral, and program requirements to remain in Early College.

Continuation

Students must maintain satisfactory academic performance, attendance, behavior, and progress toward program requirements.

- **CMS Expectations**
  - Students must maintain an unweighted 2.8 GPA to remain in the program for grades 9-11. GPA is evaluated in December and May of the 9th grade school year. If a student's unweighted GPA is below 2.8, the student may be recommended to return to the home high school for the 2nd semester of the current school year or for the following school year.
  - Prospective students whose GPA drops below the requirement after the School Choice Lottery may be subject to the district Magnet Continuation Review process and reassigned to the student's neighborhood home school.

- **CPCC Expectations**
  - Meet CPCC Standards of Academic Progress.
  - Maintain eligibility for college coursework.
  - Generally maintain a minimum 2.0 CPCC GPA, subject to current CPCC requirements.
  - Students in Grade 12 who do not have a Fall CPCC GPA of at least 2.0 may be placed on an Early College academic contract for the Spring semester.

- Students in Grade 12 who do not earn a CPCC GPA of at least 2.0 for the Spring semester are not eligible for the optional Grade 13 year.
- Students in Grade 12 who meet the Fall CPCC GPA requirement but do not earn at least a 2.0 CPCC GPA in the Spring semester may be placed on an academic contract as a condition of participating in Grade 13.
- Grade 13 students who do not earn a Fall CPCC GPA of at least 2.0 may be required to participate in mid-year graduation, as determined by the program and applicable requirements.

Academic Probation and Required Support for Failed College Courses

- Students who fail a college course during the previous semester will be placed on academic probation during the current semester.
- Students on academic probation due to a failed college course are required to report to supervised weekly academic support sessions and complete regular check-ins with designated Early College staff during the current semester.
- Required academic support may include supervised study sessions, progress monitoring, grade checks, tutoring, academic planning, and communication with Early College staff regarding college course expectations.
- Students must consistently attend required academic support sessions and participate in assigned check-ins. Failure to consistently attend and participate in required supports will jeopardize the student's continuation in the Early College program and may result in additional administrative review, academic contract requirements, Magnet Continuation Review, or recommendation for reassignment.

VI. Transfer or Exit from the Program

Students choosing to leave the Early College program must:

- Notify school administration.
- Complete any required exit procedures.
- Follow CMS transfer requirements.
- Return to their designated CMS home high school.

Students who do not meet program expectations may be subject to continuation review or reassignment consistent with CMS and CPCC policies.

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VII. Acknowledgment and Agreement

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have read and understand the Early College School Choice Compact. We acknowledge that participation in the Early College program requires:

- Strong academic effort
- Consistent attendance
- Appropriate behavior
- Effective communication
- Personal responsibility
- Compliance with CMS and CPCC expectations

We acknowledge that continued enrollment depends on meeting applicable academic, attendance, behavioral, and program requirements, and that CMS and CPCC policies may be updated during a student's participation in the program.

Student Printed Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent/Guardian Printed Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____