

Students

Activities

Start College Now

The Watertown Unified School District recognizes the value of learning that can be achieved outside the high school setting. Therefore, the Watertown Unified School District shall provide students with the opportunity to participate in the Start College Now program as outline in State statute. Student participation in Start College Now shall be in accordance with established procedures in State statute (38.14).

Start College Now allows public school juniors and seniors, who meet certain requirements, to take courses at a Wisconsin technical college for high school and technical college credit. Upon student request and with written parent or guardian approval, a student who satisfies the following criteria may apply to attend a technical college for the purpose of taking one or more courses:

- Student is in good academic standing
- Student is on track to graduate from high school on time
- Student is not participating in the Early College Credit Program (ECCP) at the same time
- Watertown Unified School District may refuse to permit a student to attend a technical college if the student is a child with a disability and the Board determines that the cost to the District would impose an undue financial burden to the District.

The technical college will admit the student to the technical college if he or she meets the requirements and prerequisites of the course or courses for which he or she applies except as follows:

- The course is full from individuals applying for admission to the course who are not high school students
- Student has a record of disciplinary problems

The technical college shall ensure that the student's educational program meets the high school graduation requirements. At least 30 days before the beginning of the technical college semester in which the student will be enrolled, the Watertown Unified School District shall notify the student, in writing, if a course in which the student will be enrolled does not meet the high school graduation requirements and whether the course is comparable to a course offered in the District. If the student disagrees with the Board's decision regarding comparability of courses or satisfaction of high school graduation requirements, the student may appeal the Board's decision to the state superintendent within 30 days after the decision. The State Superintendent's decision is final and is not subject to review.

If a course is approved, Watertown Unified School District pays for the tuition, course fees and books. Students and parents or guardians pay for incidental costs or items that will become the property of the student.

If a student receives a failing grade in a course, or fails to complete a course, at an institution of higher education or technical college, the student's parent or guardian, or the student if he or she is an adult, shall reimburse the Watertown Unified School District. If the Watertown Unified School District is not reimbursed as requested, the student will be ineligible for any further participation in the program.

Students must notify the Watertown Unified School District of his or her intent to attend a technical college by March 1st if the student intends to enroll in the fall semester and by October 1st if the student intends to enroll in the spring semester.

Legal Reference: **Wisconsin Statutes – 38.14**
 Wisconsin Statutes – 118.33
 Wisconsin Statutes – 118.53
 Wisconsin Statutes – 118.55 (7t)(C)

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