

POLICY 6434.2  
YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM

The Youth Options Program allows all Wisconsin public high school juniors and seniors who meet certain requirements to take postsecondary courses at a Wisconsin technical college system school, a University of Wisconsin system school, tribally controlled college or private, nonprofit institution of higher education in Wisconsin. Online courses offered by eligible postsecondary institution providers should be treated in the same manner as courses offered on a postsecondary institution campus. The Youth Options Program opens the door to greater learning opportunities for students who are considering a technical career, students wishing to begin college early or students who want to prepare to enter the workforce immediately after high school graduation. All freshman, sophomore and junior students enrolled in the District shall be informed of the Youth Options Program annually.

Decisions regarding comparability of courses, satisfaction of District graduation requirements and the awarding of high school credit for courses taken through the Youth Options Program are made in accordance with state law and established District procedures.

Through the Youth Options Program, students may receive both high school and postsecondary credit for successfully completed courses. District high schools grant a diploma to students who successfully complete District high school graduation requirements, regardless of whether the student satisfied all or any portion of the requirements through the Youth Options Program.

The School Board is responsible for the costs associated with students' enrollment in a technical college or higher education course under the Youth Options Program if the course is taken for high school credit and the course is not comparable to a course offered in the District. The District shall pay for no more than the equivalent of 18 postsecondary semester credits (4 ½ high school credits) per student through the Youth Options Program.

Students with a disability are encouraged to participate in the Youth Options Program. The School Board may, however, refuse to permit students with a disability to attend a technical college if the cost would impose an undue financial burden on the District as outlined in state law.

LEGAL REF.: Wisconsin Statutes

- Sections 118.13 [Student nondiscrimination]
- 118.33 [High school graduation standards]
- 118.55 [Youth Options Program]
- Wisconsin Administrative Code - PI 40 [Youth Options Program rules]

CROSS REF.: 5110 Equal Educational Opportunity/Student Discrimination Complaint

- 5310 Student Attendance
- 6421 Programs for Students with Disabilities
- 6423 Talent Development Program
- 6426 Student Program and Curriculum Modifications
- 6456 Graduation Requirements
- Special Education Program and Procedure Manual

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS: None

AFFIRMED: April 9, 2002

REVISED: August 24, 2004  
May 24, 2005

RULE 6434.2  
YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM GUIDELINES

All juniors and seniors who meet the program requirements defined by law are eligible to participate in the Youth Options Program. The student must:

- complete the 10<sup>th</sup> grade.
- apply to the postsecondary institution in the school semester prior to the one in which the student plans to attend the postsecondary course.
- complete the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Youth Options Program Plan and Report Form (PT-8700A). This form will be used to notify the School Board, through a high school counselor, of the student's intent to enroll in an institution of higher education or a technical college under the Youth Options Program. The deadlines for filing the form are no later than March 1 for the fall semester and October 1 for the spring semester.

To attend a technical college, the student must be in good academic standing, have a disciplinary record acceptable to the technical college, and not be a child at risk per state definition.

The student's parent/guardian is responsible for satisfactory student attendance and compliance with the state compulsory school attendance law.

The Board or designee shall determine whether a postsecondary course is eligible for high school credit, how many high school credits may be awarded, and whether the course is comparable to a course offered in the District. Such decisions shall be made consistent with state law requirements and established by District procedures.

The Board shall pay an institution of higher education or technical college for any Youth Option Program course that is taken for high school credit and that is not comparable to a course offered in the District. All Youth Options course textbooks are the property of the District. The District requires that these books be returned upon completion of the Youth Options Program course or that the student pay a fee for retaining the book(s).

The student shall pay for the following:

- any postsecondary course taken at an institution of higher education or a technical college that is comparable to a course offered in the District.
- any postsecondary course that is taken beyond the 18 postsecondary credit (4 ½ high school credit) maximum. (An exception to this limit would be for students that are enrolled in a Kenosha Unified School District program that requires youth options program credits up to 21.)
- a postsecondary course that is taken for postsecondary credit only.
- incidental college fees (such as a parking permit).
- equipment, tools and supplies that will become the property of the student unless the Board agrees to loan such equipment to the student.
- a postsecondary course that is not approved by the Board or designee for high school credit.

If the student receives a failing grade or fails to complete a course (which includes dropping a course) for which the Board has made payment, the Board shall request reimbursement for all costs related to the course.

Reimbursement shall be required from the parent/guardian or from the adult student. Failure to provide the requested reimbursement makes the student ineligible for further participation in the Youth Options Program.

RULE 6434.2  
YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM GUIDELINES  
Page 2

The parent/guardian or student is responsible for transportation between the school and the postsecondary institution. Transportation assistance is available from DPI for students who are eligible for free/reduced-price meals under the federal school lunch program.

Transportation costs may only be reimbursed if the student is taking a postsecondary course for high school credit. The transportation reimbursement form is available from the high school guidance offices or from DPI and must be submitted to DPI no later than 30 days after the end of the school semester to which the claim pertains.