

**Pepin Area School District****YOUTH OPTIONS PROGRAM**

The District shall administer the Youth Options Program in accordance with state law and regulations. The high school guidance office shall be responsible for administering the Youth Options Program.

Any eligible student may participate in one or more courses at a University of Wisconsin System institution, a participating tribally controlled college, a participating private, nonprofit institution of higher education located in Wisconsin, or a Wisconsin Technical College System school under the Youth Options Program. The Board shall determine whether the course(s) satisfies graduation requirements, if the course is comparable to one offered in the District and what, if any, high school credits will be awarded to the student. If such course(s) is approved for high school credit, the Board shall pay costs, in accordance with state law and regulations, but for a maximum of eighteen (18) postsecondary credits. Students who receive a failing grade or fail to complete a course for which the District has paid the tuition shall reimburse the District for all costs incurred. Any student who fails to provide such reimbursement for a dropped or failed course shall no longer be eligible for participation in the Youth Options Program.

When a student gains 12<sup>th</sup> grade status as determined by School Board policy, he/she may not participate in the Youth Options Program for more than two consecutive semesters.

**Courses Taken at a Technical College**

Courses taken at a technical college as part of the Youth Options Program shall be paid for as follows:

1. If the course is taken for high school credit and the course is not comparable to a course offered in the District, the Board shall pay as required by law.
2. If the course is taken for high school credit, the course is comparable to a course offered in the District and the student is attending a technical college for less than 10 credits during any semester, the student shall pay as required by law. If the course is taken for high school credit, the course is comparable to a course offered in the District and the student is attending a technical college for 10 or more credits during any semester, the Board shall pay as required by law.

3. If the course is taken for post-secondary credit only, the student shall pay as required by law.
4. If the student is a child with disabilities, the Board shall also pay the costs of any special services required for the student as determined jointly by the District and technical college. The District may refuse to permit a child with a disability to attend if it determines that the cost to the District would impose an undue financial burden on the District.

#### Courses Taken Through Institutions of Higher Education

Any 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade student may apply to attend an institution of higher education under the Youth Options Program for the purpose of taking one or more nonsectarian courses in accordance with state law.

The school district's guidance counselor shall determine and review with administration whether the institution of higher education course(s) is comparable to a course offered in the District, whether it satisfies any graduation requirements and what, if any, high school credits are to be awarded to the student. District administration will forward the request with a written recommendation to the board of education. If a student is not satisfied with the Board's decisions, he/she may appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Courses taken at an institution of higher education as part of the Youth Options Program shall be paid for as follows:

1. If the course is taken for high school credit and the course is not comparable to a course offered in the District, the Board shall pay as required by law.
2. If the course is taken for high school credit and the course is comparable to a course offered in the District, the student shall pay as required by law.
3. If the course is taken for post-secondary credit only, the student shall pay as required by law.

Students attending an institution of higher education under the Youth Options Program shall be responsible for their own transportation costs.

Information about the Youth Options Program shall be distributed to 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students annually in accordance with established procedures.

## HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

1. The high school guidance office will recommend to the Board the amount of high school credit to be given for a Youth Options Program course prior to the student's enrollment in the course. The high school guidance office shall use the same criteria for evaluating Youth Options Program courses taken for high school credit as the District does in approving courses offered in the District for credit towards graduation.
2. High school credit will be awarded by courses taken through the Youth Options Program if they meet any of the District's graduation requirements and any of the following conditions apply:
  - a. Credit will be awarded for those courses taken that are complementary to, consistent with or expand on a course of study or sequence of courses offered at the high school.
  - b. Credit will be awarded for those courses that expand the opportunity for a student to move to another level of academic or vocational course of study.
  - c. Credit will be awarded for those courses that meet or exceed the same standards for rigor and content as other courses approved by but not offered by the District for credit toward graduation.
  - d. Credit will be awarded for those courses that support rather than prevent a student from completing high school graduation requirements.
3. If a Youth Options Program course is approved for high school credit, one-fourth of the credit given by the institution of higher education shall be awarded as high school credit per term or semester, whichever one applies. (Example:  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a 3-credit course = .75 credit.)
4. High school credit may be denied for a Youth Options Program course that repeats the post-secondary course content for which the student has already taken and failed.
5. Except as otherwise provided, high school credit may be denied for a Youth Options Program course if the District offers a comparable course. High school credit will be given for comparable post-secondary courses taken at a technical college that the District is required to pay for under law.

6. High school credit may be denied for a course if it repeats the course content for which a student has already received a passing grade and high school credit.
7. In order to receive high school credit for a course taken under the Youth Options Program a student must successfully complete the course and receive a passing grade.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 118.33 Wisconsin Statutes  
118.55  
PI 40, Wisconsin Administrative Code

CROSS REF.: 345.41, Student Classification

Policy Adopted: January 2005