

# How to Access Running Start

This document serves as a general enrollment process guideline and list of preparatory questions for families to consider when deciding if Running Start is a good fit for the student.

## Initial Questions for Students/Families to Consider:

- How do the college's courses meet the student's academic interests?
  - What courses are offered at the college that are not offered at the high school or (if available) local skill center?
- How do the college's courses fit in the student's High School and Beyond Plan?
- How do the college's courses fit with the high school's graduation requirements?
  - School Counselors can confirm which courses meet the district's graduation requirements.
- Is the student academically ready for college-level work?
  - Most Running Start courses include a year's worth of work in 10 weeks.
    - In general, one hour of class requires two hours of homework.
  - Strong reading and writing skills are critical to success.
    - Students who barely pass the college's placement exam should find out how to access additional help at the college or back at the high school.
- Is the student socially ready for the independence and responsibility that come with being a college student?
  - Colleges treat Running Start students the same as other college students.
  - Students are expected to *ask for help* when needed.
- What resources are needed to help with the textbook, fees, and transportation costs?
  - Ask the high school counselor about available district or community resources.
  - Students who qualify for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch may also qualify for fee waivers at the college.
- What is the school or district process and timeline for Running Start registration?

## Where to Start:

- Each high school and college have its own process and timeline for Running Start registration and enrollment.
  - Students often start the process in February or March of their sophomore or junior year (for a fall entry into the college).
  - School counselors are key in helping the student work through the eligibility, academic advising, and registration processes.
- There are two general places to look for more information:
  - High school's website and/or Counseling Center.
    - Meet with the school counselor to determine the high school's process, discuss how Running Start fits in the student's High School and Beyond Plan, and make an academic course plan.
  - College's website (type "Running Start" in their search box).
    - Determine the college's eligibility & registration processes.

