



# *News Release*

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## LEARN TO EARN: MDE Workshops Show Students How Early College Credits Now Can Save Them Money Later

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LANSING – Students can learn how to earn college credit in high school in a statewide series of workshops hosted by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE).

“Students and their families will learn how to use Dual Enrollment and Early/Middle College programs to earn college credits before leaving high school,” said State Superintendent Brian Whiston. “Providing multiple pathways to learning is the linchpin to helping Michigan become a Top 10 education state in 10 years. We need to promote and nurture these strategies.”

Staff will meet with teachers, counselors, and administrators to discuss student options as they transition to college and careers, and then host free evening sessions for students and parents interested in reducing college tuition and expenses through early college credits.

Early/Middle College programs allow students to earn a high school diploma and substantial college credit through a fifth year of study. Programs can begin as early as the ninth grade, and are located within a school, intermediate school district (ISD), or college campus. The model is most beneficial for economically-disadvantaged and first-generation college students, as well as those students who are underserved, underachieving, or underrepresented.

Dual enrollment allows eligible students, starting in ninth grade, to enroll in up to 10 postsecondary courses throughout their high school careers. Dual enrollment courses may be taken on college campuses, online, or through a concurrent enrollment program established by a school district.

Last year, Michigan paid more than \$40 million in dual enrollment fees for about 28,000 students, who earned over 81,000 postsecondary credits.

MDE staff also will share Work-Based Learning requirements for students and employers, as formal school-business partnerships can help students better prepare for meaningful careers and create a pipeline of future employees.

Brochures distributed at each session will provide basic information on Dual Enrollment, Early/Middle Colleges, and Work-Based Learning. Light refreshments also will be available.

Meeting locations are as follows:

- April 30, 6-7:30 p.m., Library of Michigan, Lansing, [michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan](http://michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan)
- May 1, 6:30-8 p.m., Detroit Public Library, Detroit, [detroitpubliclibrary.org](http://detroitpubliclibrary.org)
- May 9, 5:30-7 p.m., Kirtland Community College, Grayling, [kirtland.edu](http://kirtland.edu)
- May 10, 5-6:30 p.m., Muskegon Innovation Hub, Muskegon, [gvsu.edu.mihub](http://gvsu.edu.mihub)
- May 21, 7-8 p.m., Delta-Schoolcraft ISD, Escanaba, [dsisd.net](http://dsisd.net)
- May 22, 5:30-7 p.m., Dickinson-Iron ISD, Kingsford, [diisd.org](http://diisd.org)
- May 23, time TBD, Lake Superior State University, Sault Ste. Marie, [lsu.edu](http://lsu.edu)

To register for a session, please go to <https://goo.gl/EmvGTE>.

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