

Early College

AT IRONDALE & MOUNDS VIEW

Mounds View Public Schools

Minnesota's first comprehensive early college high school district

First in the state

Mounds View Public Schools is the first school district in the state to offer comprehensive early college high school programs allowing students the opportunity to earn a two-year associate degree for free — all while still enrolled in high school.

- Although many high schools around the nation offer concurrent college enrollment programs—including Irondale High School and Mounds View High School—those programs traditionally serve most effectively the highest-achieving students in the top third of their class. And through those programs, earning an associate degree by high school graduation isn't a given.
- Mounds View Public Schools' new Early College program targets Irondale and Mounds View students who are in the middle of their class (30th to 70th percentile). These students at times have not received the preparation necessary to succeed in post-secondary programs, and they often may be the first in their family to attend college.
- At the same time, the Early College program adds the courses necessary for students in Advanced Placement and College in the Schools programs to earn an associate degree.



With the Early College program, post-secondary success is becoming the rule for all students and the opportunity to earn an associate degree is now a reality for many more students than before.

A focus on



Grades 9 – ~~12~~¹⁴

Educational journeys don't end in 12th grade. That's why an early-start, comprehensive approach to post-secondary success is necessary for life beyond high school graduation.

By strategically blending high school and the first two years of college, Mounds View Public Schools' Early College program provides students with the academic foundation required for success in college or other pursuits. This includes:

- Increasing the rigor and relevance of high school courses.
- Exposing students to the rigors of college work.
- Collaborating with a college partner to target expectations between high school and college.
- Reducing the need for remedial coursework in college.
- Emphasizing “Habits of mind,” self-advocacy life skills.

- Frequent advising to keep students on track.
- Closing the “opportunity gap” by giving students the skills they need to access opportunities beyond high school.
- Offering students the opportunity to earn an associate degree for free.

The Early College program intentionally aligns grades 9 through 14, thereby increasing the chance of all students' success in college-level courses.

“ This opens a whole new opportunity for students to get prepared for post-secondary success. ”



— *Dr. Brenda Cassellius,*
Commissioner
Minnesota Department
of Education

post-secondary

How it works

Participation

Working with their dean, Irondale and Mounds View students develop a four-year academic plan that includes options for taking classes that allow them to earn college credits.

Majority in the middle

For students in the academic middle, the Early College program provides the necessary foundation and support to benefit from college credit-earning opportunities. Students who do not meet college-readiness indicators from standardized assessments are identified for additional foundation classes and college seminar courses to help prepare them for the rigor of a college curriculum. This provides students with the skills they need for success beyond high school in whatever post-high school career path they choose, including two-year colleges, four-year colleges, and/or certificate programs, internships or military.

Highest achievers

Students who currently benefit from Honors, Advanced, College in the Schools, Advanced Placement (AP) and other concurrent enrollment opportunities typically rank in the top third of their class. These students continue to have those rigorous opportunities and now have an additional option of choosing to take specific college credit-earning courses that meet requirements of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum and/or an associate degree.



National and state leaders visited Irondale to applaud its Early College program at a Town Hall event on the importance of post-secondary planning. More than 400 guests attended including Governor Mark Dayton, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and Minnesota Department of Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius.

Where

Through an agreement with Anoka-Ramsey Community College, students take Early College courses at Irondale or Mounds View during the regular school day from credentialed District teachers who have partnered with an Anoka-Ramsey Community College faculty mentor. There are occasional opportunities for students to visit the Anoka-Ramsey Community College campus to participate in Early College campus activities.

Courses

The syllabus for each course is jointly developed by the District's classroom teacher/s and the collaborating teacher from Anoka-Ramsey Community College.

Student schedules

Individual student schedules are designed by students and parents in cooperation with their high school deans. Students who want to complete an associate degree while in high school should develop a four-year plan with their dean and register for the necessary coursework identified in the course registration handbook.

Early success

Earning credits

College credit-earning courses identified by Mounds View Public Schools and Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC) have been specifically chosen to allow students the opportunity to meet the general education requirements of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum and/or the Associate of Arts degree. Students who complete the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum through ARCC (with a cumulative GPA of 2.0) have completed the general education requirements at many Minnesota colleges and universities. To earn college credit in a dual enrollment course, students must earn at least a C average on the ARCC grading scale and demonstrate proficiency in all essential outcomes.



“ This program is one of the state’s most comprehensive partnerships between a high school and our state colleges. I applaud the Early College program and hope to see it used as a model across Minnesota. ”



— Dr. Steven Rosenstone, Chancellor
Minnesota State Colleges and
Universities

Transferring credits

Students earning an associate degree have the opportunity to transfer earned credits to a wide range of colleges and universities across the U.S. Students should always work closely with their dean to ensure how their credits may transfer or be accepted at the college or university of their choice.

Cost

Mounds View Public Schools students pay no tuition for college credits or courses.

Using money from a variety of funding sources, the maximum amount the District will pay when the program is fully implemented is \$55,000 per high school.

Standing out in the crowd

Many high schools around the nation offer concurrent college enrollment programs, including Irondale High School and Mounds View High School. For example, the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program allows students from nearly every Minnesota public high school to earn credits from programs at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

How is the Early College program different?



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**PSEO –
Concurrent
Enrollment
taught at
high school**

**PSEO –
Concurrent
Enrollment
taught on
college campus**

**Advanced
Placement &
International
Baccalaureate**

**Articulated
Credits**

Students typically served:	Students in the middle (30th - 70th %) and high-achieving students.	Top 30% as juniors, top 50% as seniors.	Top 30% as juniors, top 50% as seniors.	Varies, but typically represented by higher-achieving students.	Broad range of students in Career & Tech. Ed. Courses.
Courses offer college credit if successfully completed?	✓	✓	✓	✓	Yes, but only at school with articulation agreement.
Credits are accepted in MnSCU schools?	✓	✓	✓	✓	Only in schools with specific agreement.
Credits can be used outside Minnesota?	Depends on school of choice.	Depends on school of choice.	Depends on school of choice.	✓	
College academic foundational skills intentionally taught?	✓				
'Habits of Mind,' and college access skills taught in intentional way?	✓				
Program provides defined pathway to associate degree?	✓	In some cases.	Optional.		
High school faculty partner with college faculty?	✓	✓			
Classes and support offered on high school campus?	✓	✓		✓	✓
College campus experiences?	✓	✓	✓		

For more specifics on PSEO, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and articulated credit programs, visit www.moundviewschools.org/irondale or www.moundviewschools.org/moundview.

Tuition savings

Earning a two-year associate degree for free can create a significant savings for families of college-bound students. Approximately how much would a student save in tuition and fees by completing credits in high school for an associate degree at today's rate?

\$10,342 saved

Two-year Minnesota community college

\$14,052 saved

Four-year Minnesota state university

Average tuition including fees over two years.

Source = 2011-2012, The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System

In their own words:

The District's innovative new program has received considerable attention. Here are just a few of the reactions from national leaders, the media and students themselves.

“This is a great opportunity to save a lot of money in college tuition.”

— Lily Sacay, Mounds View student

“Education gurus in the state point to places like Mounds View for evidence that college readiness at earlier grade levels can work.”

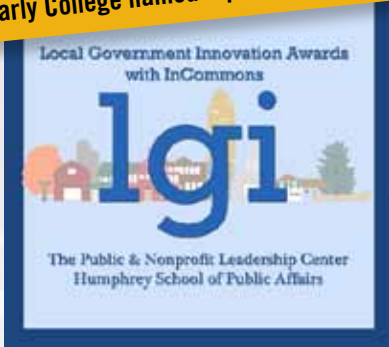
EDUCATION WEEK



“I’ll be the first in my family to go through college. That will make my whole family proud.”

— Nate McGee, Irondale student

Early College named top school winner



“Students will have more chances at earning free credit toward a two-year college degree as part of a program that has caught the eye of President Obama’s education chief.”

PIONEER PRESS



For videos and more information, visit:

moundsviewschools.org/irondale

moundsviewschools.org/moundsview