

Wyandotte School District Information

Regarding Section 21f of the State School Aid Act

Law

Section 21f expands access to digital learning options for students in Michigan. Students enrolled in a public local district or public school academy in any of grades 6 to 12 are eligible to enroll in online course effective Oct. 1, 2013.

Definition of an Online Course

Section 21f defines an online course as a “...course of study that is capable of generating a credit or a grade, that is provided in an interactive internet-connected learning environment, in which pupils are separated from their teachers by time or location or both, and in which a teacher who holds a valid Michigan teaching certificate is responsible for determining appropriate instructional methods for each pupil, diagnosing learning needs, assessing pupil learning, prescribing intervention strategies, reporting outcomes, and evaluating the effects of instruction and support strategies.”

Number of Online Courses

With the consent of the student’s parent or legal guardian, a student may enroll in up to two online courses as requested by the pupil during an academic term, semester or trimester. Consent of the parent or legal guardian is not required if the student is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor.

District Restrictions on Enrollment in an Online Course

Students can be denied enrollment in following cases:

1. The student has previously gained the credits provided from the completion of the online course.
2. The online course is not capable of generating academic credit.
3. The online course is inconsistent with the remaining graduation requirements or career interests of the student.
4. The student does not possess the prerequisite knowledge and skills to be successful in the online course or has demonstrated failure in previous online coursework in the same subject.
5. The online course is of insufficient quality or rigor. If a district denies a student enrollment because the online course is of insufficient quality or rigor, the district shall

make a reasonable effort to assist the student to find an alternative online course in the same or similar subject that is of acceptable rigor and quality.

6. The cost of the online course exceeds the amount a district is required to pay. However, if a student's parent or guardian is willing to pay the difference in cost, they have that option.
7. The enrollment request does not occur within the same timelines established by the district for other enrollment and scheduling changes. In other words, schools can establish enrollment deadlines for online courses that mirror those for traditional courses and deny late enrollment requests.

Appeal Process for Denial of Student Request

A student and his or her parents may appeal the denial by submitting a letter to the superintendent of the intermediate school district (ISD) in which the student's educating district is located. A response to the appeal must be issued within 5 days after it is received.

Choice of Online Courses

Students may select courses from the online course catalog published by the educating district, or they may select courses from the statewide catalog of online courses that contains the courses found in the educating district catalog in addition to courses published by other district course providers statewide, including Michigan Virtual School courses.

Section 21f limits students to two online courses per academic term, semester, or trimester. For a student to enroll in more than two courses, the school has the option of applying for a seat time waiver from the Michigan Department of Education, see section 5-O-B of the Pupil Accounting Manual; or if the student is taking the online courses on-site with a certified teacher present, there is no limit on the number of online courses in which the student can enroll up to 1.0 FTE, see section 5-O-A of the Pupil Accounting Manual.

The student taking the online course can do so at school or at home. If the student decides to take the course at school, a computer and a place (lab setting) for the student to take the course and assign a local mentor for the student(s) taking the online course will be provided. Special education students will have the home school provide accommodations for the students based on their IEPs. The mentor will work closely with these students and be in touch with the online teacher regularly for content support.

Payment of Online Course Fees

Section 21f requires districts to use their foundation allowance or per pupil funds calculated in the State School Aid Act to pay for the expenses associated with the online course(s).

Districts are not required to pay more than 8.33% of the district's foundation allowance or per pupil payment as calculated in the State School Aid Act for a semester course.

Required Access to Technology

A student enrolled in an online course must be provided the same rights and access to technology in his or her educating district's school facilities as all other pupils enrolled in the district.

The educating district is the district that counted the pupil in membership during the Fall or Spring of the current school year.

Statewide catalog of Online Course Syllabi

The Michigan Virtual University expects the statewide catalog to be available to schools, students and the general public beginning in October 2013. Students and their parents will be able to review online course syllabi in the statewide catalog during the fall so that enrollment requests in online courses can be made for the second semester beginning in January 2014.

Credit for Successful Online Course Completion

Districts must grant appropriate academic credit for successful online course completions and must count that credit toward completion of graduation and subject area requirements. In addition, a student's record and transcript must identify the online course title as it appears in the online course syllabus.

If a student drops out of a particular online course the district is not required to place that student in an existing similar course.