

Q & A Regarding New Haven's Four-Year Early College

1. Is New Haven *really* offering both a diploma and Associate's Degree in four years?

Yes! Students can complete both in four years.

2. Your letter says it's free. What's the catch?

There is no catch. We have always offered dual enrollment, where students can take college classes and get both high school and college credits, at no cost to the parent. This takes that same idea one step further and leads to an Associate's Degree.

3. If this is such a great idea, why isn't every school district doing it?

They can't. We don't know of any other school district in Macomb County on an eight-period day. Most high schools offer only six-period day. With 18 credits required by the state, most school districts can only offer their students 6 elective credits in four years of high school. By moving to an eight-period day, now we can offer our students 14 elective credits. The additional time makes room for a four-year Early College program.

4. What's the timing look like? Have you shortened class periods or lengthened the school day?

Classes are the same length, but the day is longer.

5. A longer day? Does a student have to go all eight hours?

No. If a student selects a seven period day, the parent would have to agree to provide the transportation one way. Permission must be obtained by seeking a waiver from the principal. A face-to-face meeting is necessary to ensure that this is exactly what the parent and student both want. A parent could excuse his or her student from either the first period or the last period provided this decision is made once each school year ...students cannot start, stop, and start again.

6. Will the eight-hour day prevent a student from participating in sports?

No. The day will end at 3:15. On rare occasions, a practice or game may require students to leave prior to the end of the school day.

7. My child already struggles with his or her classes. I am worried that going to school more will result in his or her wanting to give up.

The eight-period day offers opportunities for students who struggle, too. Rather than extra academics, those students will have another hour for support. Students who are not yet grade-level proficient will receive support classes that give students additional time to master subjects like English, math, science or social studies. Struggling students should be more successful because they'll have more help. Success in school usually leads to happiness with school.

8. My child has a job to save money for college. Won't this extra hour interfere with work?

For students who are grade-level proficient, they will be able to complete both high school and two years of college with our Early College program. This will save the student and YOU, the parent, two years of tuition. Seldom do high school students earn as much on a job as two years of college would be worth to them financially. Students who are grade-level proficient can also opt for a seven-period day. Even if they stay the entire day, they can still be at work soon after 3:15 p.m.

9. With the eight-period day and this focus on college and/or support classes, does this mean students will lose electives?

No, not at all. We will continue to support the electives and add new opportunities, too. For example, this year we added band, choir, guitar, additional world languages, American Sign Language and more in addition to the college classes students can take.

10. How will the eight-hour day affect bus transportation?

Almost everyone will be taking the bus to and from school. School begins at 7:20 and ends at 3:15. Buses will bring students in for 1st period and home after 8th period. Students needing transportation at a different start or ending time must find their own transportation.

11. What about transportation to Macomb Community College or Oakland University? Does the district provide it?

If your son or daughter takes a college class with a group of students from NHHS held during the regular high school day, yes, we will provide transportation. If they take a class in the late afternoon or evening, no, we will not provide transportation.

12. What about students who aren't Freshmen next year? Can they earn an Associates Degree?

Freshmen have the best opportunity to earn all the credits necessary for an Associates Degree. However, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors can also earn college credit through this same program. In fact, many upper classmen may have more room in their schedule to take college classes for free.

13. Do students need to take a placement exam?

Yes. The Compass exam is required for admission into Macomb Community College.

14. When will students take the Compass placement exam?

The college semesters and high school semesters don't line up exactly. Students will have approximately two weeks of high school without any college classes. During this time, students will take their placement exam, get oriented on the college computer system, and receive other preliminary training for college.

15. How many classes can students take at Macomb Community College?

A maximum of three per semester is possible.

16. Do credits transfer to other universities?

In most cases, yes. However, we recommend you call or meet with advisors at the college you want to attend and ask them.

17. What courses are offered?

All New Haven High School students will start with a series of courses leading to certification in a variety of alternative energy areas. Each of those sets of credits can be applied to an Associate's Degree. We will also plan to offer a variety of world languages through Macomb. There will be other courses required to meet the high school graduation requirements. Elective credits will be open to choices by the student.

18. The credits are paid for by the school district. What about book fees and course costs?

The school district will allocate \$50 per course to cover course fees or textbooks. Any costs over that amount will be the responsibility of the student.

16. Are there enough staff members to make all this happen?

Absolutely. The college classes will be taught by college professors. We have a facilitator working at NHHS with students taking college classes. The extra assistance helps students be more successful in their college coursework.