

Early College

AT IRONDALE & MOUNDS VIEW

Mounds View Public Schools

Minnesota's first comprehensive early college high school district

House Bill Justification and Rationale

Thanks to Early College at Mounds View Public Schools, students in the academic middle have been able to earn free college credits while still enrolled in high school.

In order to continue teaching these high-rigor courses, District teachers soon will be required to hold a master's degree in their field or a master's degree plus 18 graduate-level, discipline-specific credits. Failing to meet this requirement jeopardizes Mounds View's ability to continue to offer college-level courses in the high schools.

Mounds View Public Schools is seeking funding assistance to offset tuition costs incurred for this teacher credentialing so students will continue to have access to this valuable Early College program.

Why is funding assistance requested?

Mounds View's current funding model is not sustainable.

- The Higher Learning Commission's four-year credentialing deadline requires most of Mounds View's teachers to return to school to gain the necessary credentials.
- Credentialing costs are currently being aided by the Mounds View Public Schools general education fund and by the teachers themselves.
- Mounds View actively competes with a large statewide pool of other school districts for limited available public funds.

How is Mounds View unique?

As a state leader in concurrent enrollment, Mounds View has a greater need to sustain its efforts than most school districts because of the size, scope and multi-year history of its Early College program.

- Launched five years ago, Mounds View Public Schools is the first comprehensive Early College district in the state of Minnesota.
- The program is for ALL students, with about 97 percent of high school students participating in rigorous courses and 91 percent of those students earning college credits.

- Students participating in rigorous courses and earning college credits are demographically diverse and fall on all areas of the academic spectrum.
- Mounds View was one of only two districts nationwide chosen to participate in a Jobs For the Future initiative growing the nation's dual-credit teaching force.
 - Jobs for the Future is a national non-profit that works to ensure educational and economic opportunity for all.

How is Early College valuable to students and the state?

This innovative program saves families and the State of Minnesota millions of dollars annually, and it builds a stronger, more highly skilled workforce.

- By earning college credits for free, students saved \$4,426,750 in tuition costs in 2017 alone.
- Graduates of Irondale High School and Mounds View High School enter college ahead of their peers, using the extra credits they earned in high school to explore additional majors, study abroad, participate in internships and graduate early.
- Earning credits in high school increases a student's likelihood of graduating from college, saving the state and its higher education institutions valuable resources.
- If teachers are not able to meet the credentialing requirements, these opportunities will be lost.

How will funding assistance for Mounds View benefit other school districts?

Access to additional state funds will allow Mounds View Public Schools to continue its work towards credentialing all high school partner teachers and share its insights, models and resources with other districts statewide.

- Mounds View is creating a planning model for increasing the supply and quality of high school partner teachers and identifying discipline-specific and graduate-level course offerings (both in-state and out-of-state).
- Mounds View will partner with other districts to help identify ways to meet the credentialing deadline.

What impact will funding assistance make?

Additional funds will allow Mounds View's students to continue to participate in rigorous college credit-earning courses, which has become a hallmark of the District's student-centered curriculum.

- Mounds View currently has high school partner teachers ready, willing and able to begin taking classes immediately.
- Approximately 10 teachers are already pursuing discipline-specific, graduate-level credits, and more than a dozen will enroll in credentialing courses this summer.

Mounds View's Equity Promise states that programs and services will be in place at all schools to ensure that race, gender, class and disability will not predict students' success. State support for Mounds View's Early College program will help the District maintain its Equity Promise to all students and provide the opportunity to fine-tune the existing credentialing timeline.

Points of Emphasis

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.
- Through an agreement with Anoka-Ramsey Community College, students take Early College courses at Irondale or Mounds View during the regular school day from credentialled 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.
- 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.
- Unique in education, a relatively small state investment in concurrent enrollment actually saves the state significant valuable financial resources that can be used elsewhere.
- Concurrent enrollment transforms the K-12 academic experience.

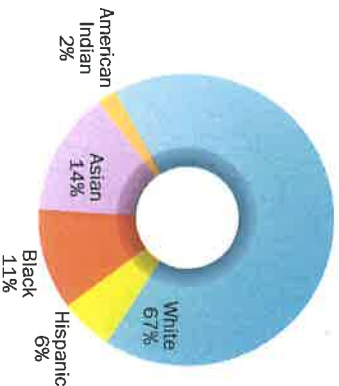
Early College

Fast Facts
for the Class of
2017



97% of the students participated in **RIGOROUS COURSES**

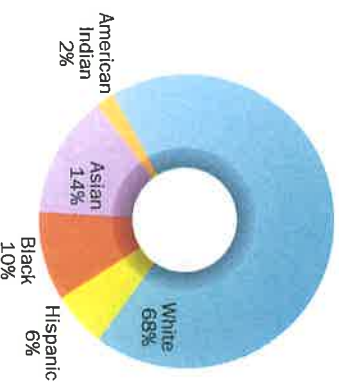
Class Demographics



806 total students

175 students qualified for free or reduced-price lunch

Early College Demographics



783 students participated in rigorous courses

162 students qualified for free or reduced-price lunch

Categories of rigorous courses at Mounds View Public Schools

Anoka-Ramsey Community College (ARCC) courses: Dual/Concurrent Enrollment. Students participate in courses taught by high school staff (mentored by college staff) and offered at the high school.

College in the Schools (CIS) courses: Students participate in CIS courses taught by high school staff and earn University of Minnesota College Credit.

Advanced Placement (AP) courses: Students participate in AP-approved courses taught by high school staff and receive credit by scoring 3 or better on AP exam.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP): Students participate in courses taught by high school staff and receive credit by scoring 50 or better on the CLEP exam.

Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO): Students participate in college/university courses at the college/university campus.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Articulated Credit courses: Students in grades 10-12 participate in CTE courses and earn credit that will be honored at some Minnesota Community Colleges.

91%

of the students earned

COLLEGE CREDITS



17,707

COLLEGE CREDITS

earned by the Class of 2017

733

students earned at least

3 COLLEGE CREDITS

Semester (Credits)	Students
Less than 1 Semester (3-11 credits)	179
1+ Semester (12-23 credits)	228
2+ Semesters (24-35 credits)	161
3+ Semesters (36-47 credits)	87
4+ Semesters (48-59 credits)	56
5+ Semesters (60+ credits)	22

Does not include PSEO credits, as this data is not available to the District.

69%

of the students earned

1 SEMESTER OR MORE

of college credits



Cost savings
(based on \$250 per credit)

ALL students

\$4,426,750

Students of color

\$1,209,500

Students who qualify for free

or reduced-price lunch

\$587,250



11

students earned an

Associate of Arts Degree

upon high school graduation



Mounds View
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

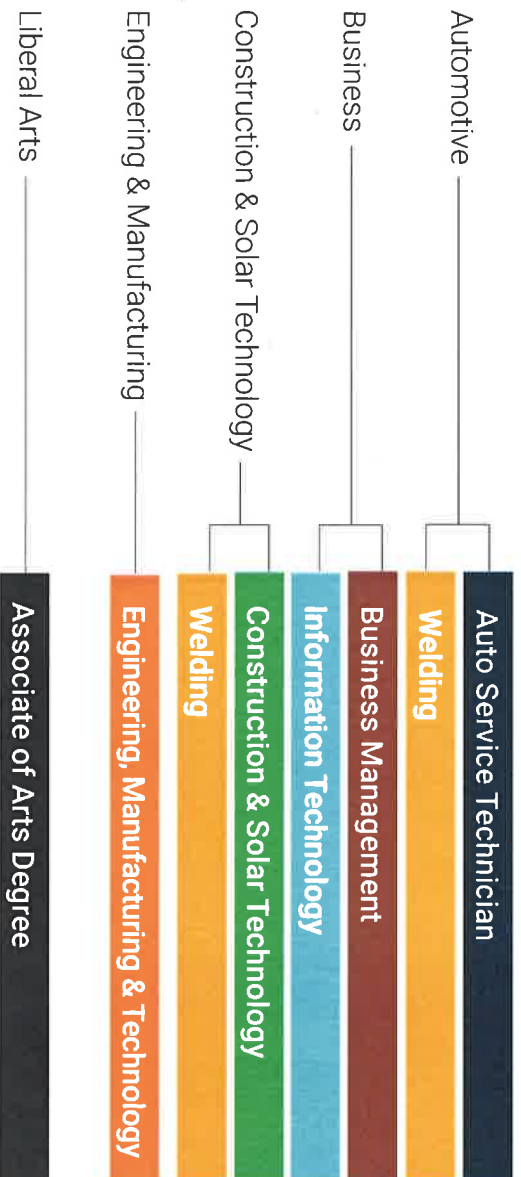
PATHWAYS TO POSSIBILITIES

Mounds View Public Schools offers our students the opportunity to explore a variety of careers through specific coursework aligned to industry pathways. Exploration continues with exposure to industry experiences that allow students to follow their interests and prepare for further post-secondary study, training or work opportunities.



AREA OF INTEREST

PATHWAY(S)



Working directly with their Deans, students create a four-year plan which provides a roadmap of courses that is revisited throughout high school. Students can enroll in one or more recommended pathway core courses depending on interest areas. Pathways are flexible, not fixed, allowing students to take courses in any area of interest with no restrictions. Some of these courses offer the opportunity to earn free college credit.