



College and Career Readiness Policy

Merit Preparatory Academy

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees of Merit Preparatory Academy will approve a College and Career Readiness School Counseling Program involving students, parents, educators and counselors.¹ Through this program, school counselors will use a multifaceted approach to inspire all students to pursue and prepare for postsecondary educational and vocational opportunities.

The purpose of this policy is to guide and support students in the planning and implementation of an individualized career path using a multifaceted approach to optimize desired outcomes.

The Counseling Program will include the following: an individualized plan for career readiness for each student, collaborative classroom instruction, measures for dropout prevention and program administration.

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DEFINITIONS

College and Career Readiness School Counseling Program (CCR): A process in which counselors, administrators, teachers, and others work with parents and students to plan for their future and prepare them to successfully transition from the public school system to postsecondary education, training or the workforce.

Plan for College and Career Readiness: A written plan, for students in grades 7–12, that is updated annually and collaboratively developed by the student, the student's parent or guardian, and a secondary school counselor.

Multifaceted Approach: Utilizing a variety of resources and methods in creating and executing an individualized College and Career Readiness Plan for each student including collaborative counseling, classroom instruction, measures for dropout prevention and program administration.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Merit Preparatory Academy Procedural Standards for Comprehensive Counseling³, College and Career Readiness plans will be implemented as follows:

¹ [R277-462](#)

² [53E-2-302-2](#)

³ [Merit Academy Comprehensive Counseling Program](#)

1. College and Career Readiness plans shall be initiated at the beginning of a student's seventh grade year, or within the first year the student enrolls at Merit Prep Academy in grades 7–12⁴.
2. In either seventh or eighth grade, students will have an individual CCR Plan conference with a parent and a counselor.
3. In ninth through twelfth grades, students will have regular individual and group CCR planning conferences with a parent, a counselor and teachers.

CCR Plan conferences will include the following:

1. Recognizing a student's accomplishments, strengths and progress toward meeting his or her educational goals and graduation requirements⁵.
2. Planning, monitoring and managing both educational and career development⁶.
3. Planning, monitoring and managing a career pathway or career goal for each individual student in grades 7–12.
4. Reviewing possible employment options, scholarships, internships and postsecondary options⁷.
5. Reviewing interest and aptitude assessments.

Additional requirements include the following:

1. CCR Plan documents will be maintained as a student record.
2. A student's course registration and class changes shall be consistent with his or her written CCR Plan.
3. Parents will be given prior notice of, and invitation to, all scheduled CCR Plan conferences. A Parent's involvement in CCR planning will be documented.
4. The implementation of the College and Career Readiness Plans on behalf of each student will be consistent with Merit Preparatory Academy's values and goals⁸

Board Approved: 2/21/23

⁴ [53E-2-304-2\(b\)](#)

⁵ [53E-2-304-2\(b\)\(iii\)\(A\)](#)

⁶ [53E-2-304-2\(b\)\(iii\)\(B\)](#)

⁷ [53E-2-304-2\(b\)\(i\)\(D\)](#)

⁸ [53E-2-302- 8](#)