



TALAWANDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

131 W. Chestnut Street, Oxford, Ohio 45056 | www.talawanda.org

Educate and Prepare!

Community Member Questions 7: College Credit Information

*We do not monitor social media accounts such as Facebook, Twitter, TickTok, etc. where questions are posted. We want to be able to provide the community with information. Please use the contact information below:

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We will continue to make FAQs and videos to answer questions as well as provide information to our community. When we see certain questions repeated, we will make Community Members Questions documents.

1. Did Talawanda School District refuse a free Miami Regional program that would have provided credits to students?

No, Talawanda has not refused or made a decision regarding the proposed Miami Regionals “Early College Academy.”

2. What is the Miami Regional program and is it free?

The Early College Academy (ECA) could accept between 10-20 junior students and 10-20 senior students. First preference would be given to students who would be the first to attend college in their family. Miami has a rubric to prioritize who would be accepted or not accepted into ECA..

Students would attend Miami Regional (Hamilton) classes. An advisor would be provided by Miami to oversee the students and the program. Students would earn college credits which would also meet Talawanda High School graduation requirements. Students could possibly graduate with an Associate’s degree upon completion of this 2 year program.

Students requiring remedial courses, who are not ready for the college level courses, but are accepted into this Miami program may be required to take remedial courses to help advance the student’s knowledge and skills. These remedial classes would not count as college credit, but Talawanda would still pay the same costs.

Transportation would need to be provided as students would attend the Miami-Hamilton campus. Students would take classes on the Hamilton campus. Talawanda School District would also provide meals for students eligible for free/reduced lunch on campus.

ECA, like College Credit Plus (CCP) is free to families but not to the Talawanda School District. Talawanda School District would pay approximately \$150,000 (courses) and \$45,000 (textbooks and materials for 15 juniors and 15 seniors each year. It is not free to the Talawanda School District.

3. I heard all districts surrounding Talawanda have entered into agreements for this Miami Regional program?

No, that is not accurate. Only Hamilton and Middletown were offered access for the 22-23 school year and have entered into agreements for the Early College Program. Surrounding districts are considering ECA for the 23-24 school year (including Talawanda).

4. Has Talawanda even considered this Miami Regional program?

Yes, Talawanda's Superintendent, administration, and high school staff have met with representatives for the ECA program. We will be providing information to our Board of Education and community at the October 20, 2022 Board meeting.

5. Why would Talawanda not consider this Miami Regional Program?

There are several concerns and reasons why ECA might not benefit Talawanda:

- a. Only 30 students (in total) are accepted with a rubric that does not guarantee students will earn college credits.
- b. The cost of approximately \$200,000 for 30 students is very expensive especially during the deficit spending and budget issues we are experiencing now.
- c. 30 students is not a lot of students. Currently, nearly 100 Talawanda High School students are engaged, on some level, in College Credit Plus courses through Miami and other university partners.
- d. The Miami-Hamilton campus is not close as compared to Miami (Oxford) which is in our district.
- e. Talawanda offers other methods for students to obtain college credit that is closer, easier, cheaper, and is a benefit to our students. See question 6 below.
- f. Talawanda must also ensure the student stays on track to graduate on time. Remedial classes needed for ECA would not count for Ohio Department of Education and Talawanda's graduation requirements.

6. What other programs does Talawanda offer for college credits?

Talawanda offers a myriad of methods for students to earn college credits such as:

- a. Partnerships with Cincinnati State, Sinclair, the University of Cincinnati, and Miami University have been established to provide classes and credits.

- b. Students may take online courses or in person courses with Cincinnati State, Sinclair, UC, or Miami University.
- c. Students are given more options by having 4 colleges to choose from when looking at college credit.
- d. Talawanda has a partnership with the University of Cincinnati's Information Technology (IT) program. Students are taught by Andy Zimmerman and may earn credit and be accepted directly into the IT Program at the University of Cincinnati.
- e. Talawanda teachers are trained and certified to provide college level courses. Students may take these courses at Talawanda High School and earn college level credits.
- f. AP (Advanced Placement) courses are also offered at Talawanda High School. Talawanda teachers provide the instruction. Families pay the AP test fee. Students who earn a 3 or higher would receive college credit for most colleges and universities.

*Note: Colleges and universities make their own decisions on what college courses are accepted or not accepted into their own school.

7. Are these other options and programs free to Talawanda and the students?

- a. AP students have to pay for the AP tests.
- b. Students and families do not pay for these programs unless there is an assigned fee such as a lab fee.
- c. Talawanda splits the cost with the partnered universities/colleges. Miami University charges a higher fee while Cincinnati State and Sinclair charge a lower fee to Talawanda. However, the costs for AP and CCP through the partnerships is less expensive than ECA due to the additional transportation and food service costs.

8. Does it make a difference which college program and credit is earned?

In short, it could. If a student earning CCP credit plans to attend ANY Ohio public college/university and most Ohio private colleges, the credits will be accepted regardless of where they were earned as per current CCP guidelines. For those planning to attend a college/university outside of Ohio, transfer credits vary by institution and would need to be verified individually. *

Talawanda has partnered with several colleges and universities listed above to help students earn college credits that would be accepted to the college or university of their choice. It is imperative that each student/family does their research. Our Talawanda School Counselors understand this process and can assist students and families.

*Note: Colleges and universities make their own decisions on what college courses are accepted or not accepted into their own school.

9. What if my child (student) fails any of these college classes?

All of our partnerships require students and parents/guardians to sign an agreement which states that if the student drops out of or fails the class, the student/family is responsible to pay for that class. The class would not be paid by Talawanda or the university/college.

10. Is the earning of college credits a positive for Talawanda students?

Yes, earning college credits is a positive for students if the student and family have done research to ensure the credits will be accepted. If the student is ready for in depth learning, possesses the skill set, and maturity, college credit opportunities are a benefit to students. Credits earned and accepted by the college/university may help families with the high and increasing costs to attend a college or university. The college courses are also great exposure, foundational skills, and knowledge preparing students who want to attend a college or university.