

Automatic Enrollment/Declaration of Option Worksheet 5

GROUP _____

It is the Board's intent that all students will be automatically enrolled in Core 24's college and career ready requirements. This policy will increase the likelihood that students are on a pathway that will keep all postsecondary options available to them after high school. The college and career ready requirements are aligned with the minimum College Academic Distribution Requirements (CADRs) needed for admission to the state four-year public institutions, and include credits in a breadth and depth of subjects, including career-concentration.

In recognition that students will pursue a variety of educational and career goals, the Board has acknowledged that some students may put greater emphasis on career preparation (most likely leading to an apprenticeship, trade school, or technical or two-year degree program) than on college preparation (most likely leading to a four-year degree program). For this reason, the career emphasis option/pathway does not require students to adhere precisely to all of the minimum CADRs, thereby creating more flexibility to pursue career and technical education opportunities.

Discussion

At the last meeting of the ITF, some members raised concerns about which requirements students would be expected to meet to graduate. Look at these two working definitions of automatic enrollment and declaration of option/pathway and discuss the following questions:

1. Which definition comes closest to your idea of what "automatic enrollment" would mean in practice? (Keep in mind that the Board's intent is to assure that all students are encouraged to keep all options open.)

_____ a. Automatic enrollment means all students pursue for two years courses that would satisfy the CADRs or are prerequisites to them; in the second half of the sophomore year, students "declare" their area of emphasis (college/career ready, college emphasis, or career emphasis). Once declared, students must meet those requirements to graduate.

_____ b. Automatic enrollment means only students who do not know which emphasis they want (college or career) are automatically placed in courses that would satisfy the CADRs or are prerequisites to them. Students can opt for a career or college emphasis as early as 8th grade, when they register for classes. Students will confirm their option/pathway in the second half of the sophomore year. Once declared, students must meet those requirements to graduate.

_____ c. Automatic enrollment means..... (write your own!)

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2. Does the idea of declaring a pathway at some designated point in the student's high school journey and then holding the student to the requirements of that pathway make sense? If not, what makes better sense?

3. What aspects of an automatic enrollment policy should be defined in rule?