How to Access Running Start

Initial Questions for Students/Families to Consider:

- How do the college's courses meet the student's academic interests?
  - What courses are offered at the college that are not offered at the high school or (if available) local skill center?
- How do the college's courses fit in the student's High School and Beyond Plan?
- How do the college's courses fit with the high school's graduation requirements?
  - School Counselors can confirm which courses meet the district's graduation requirements
- Is the student academically ready for college-level work?
  - Most Running Start courses include a year's worth of work in 10 weeks
    - In general, 1 hour of class = 2 hours of homework
  - Strong reading and writing skills are critical to success
    - Students who barely pass the college's placement exam should find out how to access additional help at the college or back at the high school
- Is the student socially ready for the independence and responsibility that come with being a college student?
  - Colleges treat Running Start students the same as other college students
  - Students are expected to *ask for help* when needed
- What resources are needed to help with the books, fees and transportation costs?
  - Ask the high school counselor about available district or community resources
- What is the school or district process and timeline for Running Start registration?

Where to Start:

- Each high school and college has its own process and timeline for Running Start registration and enrollment
  - Students often start the process in February or March of their sophomore or junior year (for a fall entry into the college)
  - School Counselors are key in the Running Start eligibility and registration process
- There are two general places to look for more information:
  - High School's website and Counseling Center
    - Make an appointment with the school counselor to determine the high school's process, discuss how Running Start fits in the student's High School and Beyond Plan, and make an academic course plan
  - College's website
    - Type "Running Start" into the website search box to get more information on the college's part of the process