1. Must the early college program lead to an associate degree?

Yes, the no-cost grades 9-12 early college program must culminate in a high school diploma and an associate degree.

1. Is a credit load equivalent to an associate degree?

No, the early college program must include the degree credential.

1. Is there a minimum number of students who would need to be enrolled?

No, however, it is recommended that the district describe the number of students to be served through the grant (per cohort and program total) in the project description section of the grant application.

1. Are tuition costs for year one with a clear plan for sustainability at the local level an allowable use of funds?

Sustainability is a key planning area for any new or existing major program or initiative. Tuition costs are not ineligible costs for this grant. However, budget requests should be linked to specific project activities and objectives. The New Jersey Department of Education has the authority to remove from consideration all ineligible costs, as well as costs not supported by the Project Activity Plan.

1. Are community colleges eligible as institution of higher education (IHE) partners?

The district must be currently operating an early college program with an accredited four-year IHE and, to demonstrate early college model program mastery, the partnership between the school district and the IHE must be in existence for at least five years.

1. Is there a budgetary limit for funds allocated between the LEA and the IHE?

There is no budgetary limit for grant funds for which the school district may allocate to the IHE partner as a grant sub-recipient. However, the amount of the allocation must be clearly stated on the Early College Model Program Partnership Form. The form must be signed by both parties (school district and IHE) and uploaded into the grant application.

1. Will a community college connection with a 4-year institution be considered?

See question/answer number five.

1. Is the grant open in EWEG?

Yes, the grant is available in EWEG which can be accessed through [NJ Homeroom](https://homeroom.state.nj.us/)

1. Where can I find a copy of the NGO?

The NGO may be accessed by navigating to the New Jersey Department of Education, Grants Management [webpage](https://www.nj.gov/education/grants/discretionary/index.shtml) and selecting “available grants”.