

# COMPASS ACADEMY

## FAQS



# Compass Academy

## Frequently Asked Questions

Question	Answer
Through the competency-based model, will this type of transcript be accepted by colleges/universities?	Yes, the Mastery Transcript is accepted by many higher education institutions. The Mastery Transcript Consortium states that “Hundreds of admissions offices have already received Mastery Transcripts and many more will continue to receive one as part of a student's college application. There has not been a single admissions officer who has said they can't use the Mastery Transcript in their admissions process. In fact dozens of students have gained admissions at a college of their choice using the Mastery Transcript.”
Will students continue to be earning credits towards graduation?	Students will still be meeting graduation requirements; however, they will do so through a Competency-Based Education (CBE) model, meaning students will meet the requirements by demonstrating proficiency in identified competencies.
Are students able to transfer back to East or North if Compass is not a “good” fit?	Yes. We ask for a minimum of a one semester commitment and then if a student wishes to return to their home high school, the student will be supported in that transition.
If you are accepted at Compass, do you automatically have a spot secured for the following year?	Yes. For example, students who enroll at Compass Academy for their 9th grade year will be able to continue their 10th grade year without having to re-enroll.
What is the process should more students want to attend Compass than there are seats available?	If our number of enrollments exceed the capacity of Compass Academy, we will institute a random lottery.
Will students graduate from East or North or will they get a diploma from Compass?	Although future plans include Compass Academy becoming a diploma issuing school, students will receive their diploma from East or North.
Are the teachers at Compass D303 teachers? What traits or characteristics are you looking for when hiring?	We are seeking educators who embrace the mission of Compass Academy - those who inspire, ignite, and prepare students for a future that does not yet exist. Some of the initial staff may be current D303 teachers and others may be recruited from other districts.

Is this appropriate for grades 11/12?	Absolutely. Compass Academy is open to all students in grades 9-12.
How is eligibility addressed?	Any D303 student in grades 9-12 is eligible to participate in this program. There are no entrance criteria as the course work will be personalized to each student's need so they flourish as a learner.
Will the Academy be a full-time high school or will it only offer a few classes?	Compass Academy is a full-time program.
Is the Academy recommended for sophomores and how will that blend with their existing schedule?	Yes, Compass Academy is open to students in grades 9-12. We would work with the student to ensure the student's schedule meets their individual needs.
What businesses and organizations will students work with?	D303 is fortunate to have many partnerships with area businesses through our existing work-based learning opportunities. At Compass Academy, we will work with students to ensure they work with businesses that align with their interests and career goals.
Are there additional costs for students who attend?	Typical registration fees will apply.
How will students be chosen to attend if only 200 are accepted?	If our number of enrollments exceed the capacity of Compass Academy, we will institute a random lottery.
Is Compass Academy being rolled out across the nation? Is D303 intending to gradually transition from a current traditional curriculum/school setting to Compass? And how will colleges view such a transition?	There are many competency-based education programs across the nation that have shown much success over the past several decades. While developing Compass Academy, we researched multiple model schools including, but not limited to Clark Street Community School in Wisconsin, Belton New Tech High in Texas, New Tech High in Zion-Benton, High Tech High in California,, Danville New Tech Academy, The Early College at Guilford in North Carolina, and Renaissance High in Tennessee.
Is it a full year four- year program? What happens if students don't like it?	Yes, Compass Academy is a four-year program. We ask for a minimum of a one semester commitment and then if a student wishes to return to their home high school, the student will be supported in that transition.

Are AP classes offered at Compass Academy?	Since Compass Academy is a personalized learning environment, the AP courses offered will be need based. For AP courses not available at Compass Academy, students will still have access to those courses at East or North.
Will the number of students be limited?	Compass Academy will be home to a maximum of 200 students.
Do you work with students who have IEPs?	Yes, the Academy is grounded in inclusion and equity. Special education and related services support will be individualized and provided based on the recommendations from a student's IEP team.
How will transcripts be different at Compass Academy?	Compass Academy has partnered with The <a href="#">Mastery Transcript Consortium</a> to ensure evidence of student learning is communicated to colleges and scholarship organizations in a format that is easily understood and aligned with entrance/selected criteria. <i>"MTC Schools don't reduce learners to single numbers, but they do hold them to high standards. When learners master critical skills and content, they earn "Mastery Credits", which combine to create a clear, succinct visualization of each learner's unique strengths."</i>
Without grades, how will this correlate to college entrance and opportunities for scholarship?	<b>The short answer is competency-based transcripts are just fine and often preferred.</b> Colleges and universities receive a variety of transcripts from alternative education programs, as well as from schools around the world, and they are accustomed to evaluating them when making admissions decisions. Competency-based transcripts provide more information on student mastery of knowledge and skills than the traditional A-F grading scale, so they can provide college admissions officers with clarity on applicants' college readiness.
How does this compare to Project Synergy?	Project Synergy is a four-year STEM-intensive program for high school students. Students in Project Synergy are accelerated in math, science, and engineering and participate in a cohort experience. Students participate in summer experiences and engage in a 150 hour internship over the course of their junior and senior year.

Can this be taken even for seniors? Just for one year? Is this recommended or encouraged?	Yes, all students in grades 9-12 are welcome at Compass Academy. For a student entering their senior year, we would make sure to work with the student to ensure a smooth transition both to Compass Academy and to their postsecondary path.
Is Compass Academy open to freshmen?	Yes, Compass Academy is open to students in grades 9-12. It is a program that serves students from St. Charles East and St. Charles North.
Is there evidence regarding ACT test scores based on this model?	Results from research show that, on average, the students in the competency-based schools performed equally as well as or better than the students in the seat time based schools. ( <a href="#">2019</a> )
Will transportation be provided?	Yes, the D303 transportation department will provide Compass students bus transportation to and from home and the Academy. Students who are able to drive will step through a similar process as we have at the high schools based on the number of available parking spaces for students.
Can students attend full time at East and only take one class at Compass?	Compass Academy students will need to attend advisory and math lab at a minimum; however, students who do not attend Compass Academy will be able to access open lab/makerspace times.
Where is the Haines Center?	The Haines Center is located in the old Haines Middle School building in the heart of downtown St. Charles on 9th Street.