

Learning That Works!

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National Association of State Directors of
Career Technical Education Consortium

CTE and Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment is when a high school student takes a credit-bearing postsecondary course, be it on a college campus, within a high school taught by college faculty or a high school teacher who qualifies as a college adjunct, or online through distance education.

The Changing Face of “Readiness”

Too often, there is a false choice between being “college” ready and being “career” ready. With over two-thirds of jobs requiring education and training behind high school, the reality is that college is now a part of any student’s career pathway.ⁱ

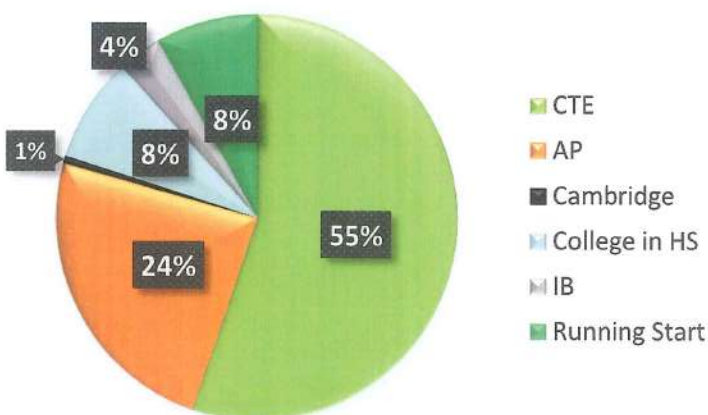
The overlap between “college” and “career” readiness is particularly clear when considering the increase in dual enrollment courses in Career Technical Education (CTE).

The Facts

- About 1.5 million high school students participated in a dual enrollment course in 2010-11.ⁱⁱ Some students participated in more than one dual enrollment course, bringing the total dual enrollment count to a little over two million.
- Out of these two million student enrollments, over **600,000 credits were earned in CTE courses**,ⁱⁱⁱ totaling about a third of all dual enrollment credits.
- This percentage may also be underestimated, given many “academic” dual enrollment courses may count towards students’ CTE programs of study, such as economics, anatomy or computer science, and that the two million estimate includes students participating in Advanced Placement (AP) courses without taking the exam.

- Participation in dual enrollment varies across states: For the 2012-13 school year, Washington reports over 180,000 high school students participated in dual credit courses, with 120,000 taking part through CTE coursework— more than double the combined number of students taking AP and IB.^{iv}
- In addition to the credits earned by students, 15 percent of postsecondary institutions report having awarded certificates, and 17 percent associate’s degrees, to high school students through dual enrollment programs in 2010-11.^v

WA Students in Dual Credit Courses 2012-13



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States and Students Reaping the Benefits

- A study across three states found dual enrollment helped **increase postsecondary enrollment** (67 percent compared to 50 percent for non-dual enrollment students) and **persistence** (82 percent persisted to a second term compared to 77 percent of non-dual enrollment students).
- One study of CTE students in Florida taking dual enrollment courses found that they were **more likely to attend postsecondary** (72 percent of dual enrollment students compared to 50 percent for non-dual enrollment CTE students) and **persist to their second term.**^{vi}
- Many states, districts and/or institutions cover most or all of the cost of dual enrollment participation. In Indiana, the Ivy Tech Community College (the statewide community college system) estimated savings of \$14.1 million in tuition costs based on the 2011-12 enrollment of over 29,000 high school students in dual credit courses.^{vii}

A Radical Redesign

In 2012, Kansas recognized a need to improve education through CTE so that its students would be college and career ready. When Governor Sam Brownback called on the Kansas Legislature to help him enact an initiative to expand Kansas CTE, the legislature passed Senate Bill 155, which covers **tuition for high school students taking postsecondary CTE classes** and provides incentives to districts to encourage students to earn industry-recognized credentials.

One year later, Kansas boosted its subsidized tuition program from \$8.75 million to \$11.5 million with the goal of providing every high school student with the opportunity to take postsecondary CTE classes. It also funded a public information campaign to promote the availability of tuition dollars for CTE courses. Kansas's multi-faceted approach has led to a **75 percent increase in CTE enrollment**^{viii} and an estimated **164,473 college credit hours** earned from 2011-2014.^{ix}

Reshaping the High School Experience^x

Dual enrollment programs can lead to almost **total immersion in college coursework for secondary students**, as is the case at **Excellence in Action** award winner Union County Academy for Performing Arts (APA) in Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

APA partners with nearby Kean University to send seniors in its theater and dance programs to study at Kean over their senior year, having equipped students with college-ready skills during their study as underclassmen. Due to robust advising and support, APA seniors averaged a 3.44 GPA in the fall of 2014, and no student has failed the state high school proficiency exam.

ⁱ <https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/dq4fqvuid4oui7rp8u8k>

ⁱⁱ <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013001.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid

^{iv} Defined as "Tech Prep" <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/DualCredit.aspx?year=2012-13>

^v <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013002.pdf>

^{vi} <http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/media/k2/attachments/dual-enrollment-research-overview.pdf>

^{vii} http://www.in.gov/icc/files/Career_Council_CC_Best_Practices_Recommendations-Final.pdf

^{viii} <https://governor.ks.gov/media-room/media-releases/2014/01/16/2014-state-of-the-state-of-kansas>

^{ix} http://www.kansasregents.org/resources/PDF/2587-ACTE_Techniques_September_2013_Beck.pdf

^x <http://careertech.org/sites/default/files/APA%20two%20pager.pdf>