

# MAKING THE CASE FOR DUAL CREDIT

1. Dual Credit courses provide high school students with opportunities to earn college credit at the same time as they earn high school credits. This enables students to explore career pathways or get a jump start on the general education credits required for a postsecondary degree or credential.
2. Research shows students presented with opportunities to access early college coursework are more likely to go to and through college. One study showed Dual Credit students were more than twice as likely to enroll in college and almost twice as likely to earn a degree.<sup>1</sup>
3. Students enrolled in Dual Credit courses are 9% less likely to be placed in costly and time-consuming remedial courses.<sup>2</sup>
4. Recent research suggests that when the eligibility criteria for accessing college coursework in high school is broadened to include middle-achieving students, those students rise to the challenge; their final grades did not differ significantly between the higher-achieving students who self-selected into the course.<sup>3</sup>
5. In 2020, one in seven students taking one or more Illinois community college credit courses was a high school Dual Credit student; however, low-income students, Black students, and Latino/a students continue to be underrepresented in Dual Credit courses.<sup>4</sup>
6. Successful completion of a Dual Credit course can give many students the confidence boost needed to continue their studies after high school.<sup>5</sup>
7. 67% of community college faculty and teachers say that Dual Credit courses are rigorous and high-quality, according to.<sup>6</sup>
8. Virtual delivery models can help schools overcome transportation and faculty challenges.
9. Dual Credit programs are created through a partnership between a school district and a higher education partner, like a community college. A state law passed several years ago to establish a default contract for these partnerships called the “Model Partnership Agreement,” which also sets suggested costs for Dual Credit courses based on the course delivery model.
10. Teachers are able to teach Dual Credit if they hold a Master’s Degree in the content area which they teach or if they hold a Master’s Degree with at least 18 hours of coursework in the appropriate content area. Flexibility created by state law allows some teachers to teach Dual Credit while finishing their Master’s Degrees and coursework requirements, under a Professional Development Plan that a university approves.

Visit [dualcreditequity.org](https://dualcreditequity.org) to read more about the power of Dual Credit.

<sup>1</sup> Ben Struhl and Joel Vargas, “Taking College Courses in High School: A Strategy for College Readiness” (Boston: Jobs for the Future, October 2012), [https://jfforg-prod-prime.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/TakingCollegeCourses\\_ExSumm\\_120312.pdf](https://jfforg-prod-prime.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/TakingCollegeCourses_ExSumm_120312.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> John M. Grimm et al, “The Answer is Yes: Dual Enrollment Benefits Students at the Community College,” *Community College Review*, December 19, 2016.

<sup>3</sup> Jennifer Zinth and Elisabeth Barnett, “Rethinking Dual Enrollment to Reach More Students”, Education Commission of the States, May 2018, [http://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Rethinking\\_Dual\\_Enrollment\\_to\\_Reach\\_More\\_Students.pdf](http://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Rethinking_Dual_Enrollment_to_Reach_More_Students.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Illinois Community College Board, “Dual Credit in the Illinois Community College System FY20”, [https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/reports/2020\\_Dual\\_Credit\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](https://www.iccb.org/iccb/wp-content/pdfs/reports/2020_Dual_Credit_Report_Final.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Jennifer Zinth and Elisabeth Barnett, “Rethinking Dual Enrollment to Reach More Students”, Education Commission of the States, May 2018, [http://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Rethinking\\_Dual\\_Enrollment\\_to\\_Reach\\_More\\_Students.pdf](http://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Rethinking_Dual_Enrollment_to_Reach_More_Students.pdf).

<sup>6</sup> Illinois Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. Illinois Dual Credit Survey. March 2021.