

ADVANTAGES OF DUAL CREDIT

The Illinois Dual Credit Survey asked educators and administrators representing secondary and postsecondary, policymakers, parents, and students for their perspectives on Dual Credit¹ in Illinois. In total 1,004 responses were collected throughout early 2021. Respondents were asked about access, rigor, and perceived benefits of Dual Credit courses. In a short answer section respondents were invited to provide deeper context on the challenges and advantages of Dual Credit programs.

97% of secondary respondents believe that high schools benefit from offering Dual Credit courses

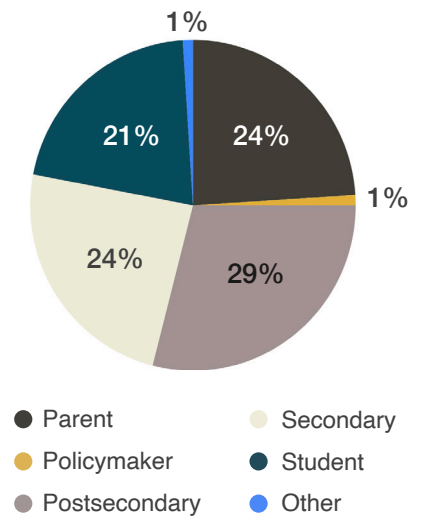
73% of postsecondary respondents believe that colleges benefit from offering Dual Credit courses

97% of student respondents believe that they benefited from participating in Dual Credit

83% of all respondents say Dual Credit courses are high quality and rigorous

83% of all respondents agree that Dual Credit courses are college courses

WHAT ROLE BEST DESCRIBES YOU

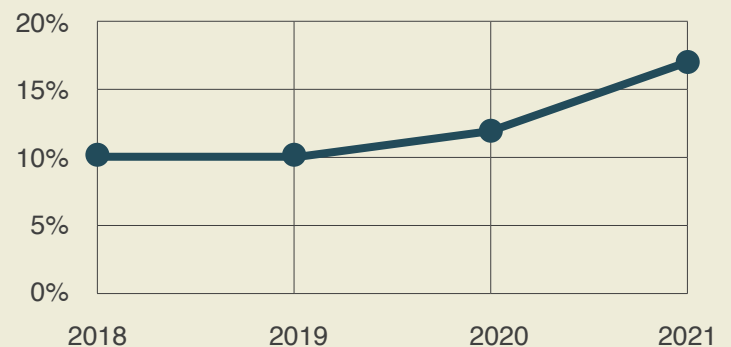


Students who take Dual Credit courses are more than twice as likely to enroll in college and almost twice as likely to earn a degree.² Demand is rising strongly and appears to be helping prepare students for post-secondary education.

Survey respondents had over 800 comments listing the advantages of Dual Credit courses for colleges, high schools, students, and parents.

PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AT LEAST ONE DUAL CREDIT COURSE

Source: Illinois Report Card



¹ The survey defined Dual Credit as a college course taken by a high school student that results in the student receiving credit at both the college and high school level. These courses may be taken at a high school, a college, or some other hybrid environment (inclusive of early college high schools and P-TECH). It does not include exam-based credit programs like Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate.

FAMILIES SAVE MONEY AND STUDENTS GET A JUMP ON COLLEGE

- *“The biggest advantage is that I was told that doing a Dual Credit course will **help me save money** and get an almost free college credit, which I really need.”*

—Dual Credit Student

- *“As a parent, it gives a leg-up to college as well as a **tuition savings**, provided the course transfers or ‘counts’ at a student’s postsecondary destination and their program. It helps students see ‘the point’ of studying varied subjects and earning good grades.”*

—Parent

STUDENTS GAIN EARLY EXPOSURE TO COLLEGE RIGOR

- *“**Challenges the student.** Gives them a viewpoint into college curriculum. Allows students to place out of standard college courses. Allows students to get further study in a particular field.”*

—Parent

- *“The biggest advantage is for students to graduate from high school with some college credit under their belts. It can give them the idea that **education continues; it doesn’t end at high school.** It introduces them to their local community colleges and makes the transition more natural.”*

—Postsecondary Faculty

- *“Allows students to get a **head start on their college coursework** preparing them for the next steps in their educational careers. For colleges, it provides a recruitment pathway for students entering the program.”*

—Postsecondary Faculty

- *“The potential for **post secondary persistence and completion.** It benefits students, taxpayers, and colleges. It provides an avenue for typically marginalized students to develop the self-efficacy necessary to transition and succeed on a college campus.”*

—Secondary Administrator

WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES BENEFIT SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

- *“Dual Credit gives high school students the opportunity to explore college level courses early; transfer credit earned; save money on college; complete college faster; be exposed to college rigor; experience campus diversity etc. **High Schools have the opportunity to offer rigorous coursework to students, build postsecondary partnerships, and collaborate with college***

***faculty on curriculum to better serve students.** Colleges are able to build partnerships with secondary, offer transfer and stackable credentials, BC, AC, AAS programs and AA completion, and build faculty pool of credentialed qualified instructors.”*

—Postsecondary Faculty

² 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-new.s3.amazonaws.com/media/documents/TakingCollegeCourses_ExSumm_120312.pdf

■ *“Dual Credit provides earlier access to college for students and can help prepare the student for college life. It can also get members of their family/household introduced to the student’s commitment, and allow them to see how time-intensive college life is. In this sense, **Dual Credit aligns with a community college’s mission to provide a guided and supportive path toward success.**”*

—Postsecondary Faculty

■ *“**Dual Credit is a game changer in our community.** We have high poverty rates and a lot of first generation students. For our poorer white students, it’s become a way to make college possible. I am very concerned about how to better engage populations that have been marginalized (Latino, African American, and working poor students).”*

—Postsecondary Faculty



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