

Scaling Education Pathways in Illinois (SEPI) Analysis

Implications and Takeaways | August 2021

For High School Education Pathway Implementers

- **Build Robust Pathways:** Schools with childcare pathways should consider shifting to a more robust program aimed at a professional educator license to prepare students for careers with higher earning potential.
- **Target Recruitment:** To inform students about the education pathway, high schools should include it in their existing course information structures and incorporate one-on-one teacher and counselor outreach, particularly to students without familiarity with childcare or teaching.
- **Prioritize Underrepresented Students:** To recruit and support underrepresented students, high schools should prioritize targeted one-on-one outreach, structured interactions with teachers from underrepresented populations, and assignments that showcase how educators can celebrate diversity.
- **Publicize Currency:** All recruitment discussions and materials should include up-to-date information about the currency available to students who complete the College and Career Pathway Endorsement in education.
- **Offer In-Building Dual Credit:** Schools should offer dual credit courses in the building during school hours to allow students easier and cheaper access, if possible.
- **Work Together:** Collaboratives of small, distanced high schools that struggle to fill onsite dual credit courses should consider combining students from several high schools to fill an online course.
- **Exploit Virtual Opportunities:** High schools should capitalize on innovations from the shift to remote learning and incorporate experiences such as virtual observations and internships, online alumni guest speakers, and short pop-in virtual observations followed by class discussion.
- **Find Talented Cooperating Teachers:** High schools should prioritize the careful selection of cooperating teachers to ensure positive student experiences.

For Postsecondary Partners

- **Offer Online Courses:** Postsecondary institutions should consider offering virtual dual credit courses to accommodate students with transportation and scheduling difficulties.
- **Provide Benefits:** To encourage and validate participation in the pathway, postsecondary institutions should consider offering benefits and selective opportunities such as priority for scholarships to students with the College and Career Pathway Endorsement.
- **Consider Transition Assistance:** To ease the transition from high school to college-level curriculum, postsecondary partners should offer study skills supports, explicitly teach new vocabulary, and navigate curriculum alignment.
- **Embed Work-Based Learning:** To accommodate student schedules, work-based learning should be embedded in dual credit courses when possible.

For Intermediary Organizations

- **Build Currency:** Intermediary organizations should prioritize building currency for pathway endorsements.
- **Provide Sharing Opportunities:** It is important to provide structured opportunities for educators to meet with peers from other districts to share pathways experiences, challenges, and successes.
- **Leverage Grants:** Using small grants, intermediaries can help collaboratives launch programs that can secure more significant stakeholder buy in and position them for additional funding.
- **Support All Schools:** There are no schools, regardless of their previous pathway experience, that cannot begin to implement a robust education pathway aimed at a professional educator license.

