

DUAL CREDIT EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN TEXAS

MAKING
RESEARCH
RELEVANT

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Key Findings

What have we learned?

Main Finding: Dual Credit Benefits Texas and its Students

- The benefits of dual credit far exceed the cost
 - The individual and societal benefits generated by participating in dual credit education are five times the cost of delivering this type of program.
- Dual credit increases college access and completion, and decreases time-to-degree
 - Dual credit education increased college enrollment by 2.4 percentage points, and college completion by 1.1 percentage points.
 - Dual credit decreases time-to-degree by approximately one summer term.
- Dual credit and college-credit only courses appear to be equally rigorous
 - From a systematic review of course syllabi, class assignments, graded student work, and survey responses submitted by dual credit and college-credit only instructors, we found that course content, student assignments, and grading standards to be similar.

Our Study Also Identified Several Areas for Improvement

- The benefits of dual credit delivered in traditional high schools are lower for disadvantaged student groups
 - These students have less academic preparation and less access to supports at home
 - » Supports embedded in Early College High Schools are likely important for these students.
- The quality of advising varies considerably, placing some students at risk of accumulating excess credit
 - High school guidance counselors, who provide the bulk of advising, often lack resources and training to adequately guide dual credit students in their course-taking decisions.
- Costs may deter some students from participating in dual credit
 - Advisors and guidance counselors reported that the costs of enrolling in dual credit courses are an obstacle to participation.
 - In Texas, providing dual credit students financial relief increases the share of costs covered by the college or the school district.

Recommendations

How can our findings inform policy and practice?

Recommendations

- Ensure that students are adequately prepared to succeed in and have the necessary supports to benefit from dual credit-education programs delivered in traditional high schools
- Strive to ensure that costs neither serve as a barrier for students to participate in dual-credit education nor inhibit higher education institutions from offering affordable and high-quality dual-credit education programs
- Continue to close gaps in dual-credit participation rates across race and ethnicity
- Encourage institutions to continue to develop and implement processes to ensure that dual-credit courses continue to be as rigorous as college-credit only courses
- Improve the advising processes and ensure equitable access to high-quality advising for dual-credit students

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THANK YOU