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Frequently Asked Questions about the Dual Enrollment Provisions of the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act of 2013

1. ***What is the definition of "dually enrolled students" in the College and Career Readiness and College Completion Act (CCR-CCA) of 2013 (here after referred to as "the law")?***

   The term "dually enrolled students" means a student who is dually enrolled in a public secondary school in the state and a public institution of higher education (IHE) in the state. 18-14A-01.(a)(2) (Found in the section about the Early College Access Grant).

2. ***Under what conditions are local school systems and institutions of higher education <u>each</u> allowed to count high school students who are dually enrolled in credit-bearing college courses in their Full Time Equivalent (FTE) calculations*****?**

   Provided that all the other requirements for enrollment eligibility (e.g. age, attendance, etc.) are met, a student will be considered one full FTE in the local education agency (LEA) if the student is enrolled in a total of four courses for the year at either the high school or the institution of higher education regardless of the proportion of the load being taken at either institution as long as at least one course is taken in high school. See COMAR 13A.02.06.03 State Financial Assistance Under the Foundation Program. For a student taking fewer than four credit-bearing courses, a local education agency may count that student as a ¼ full time equivalent for each course taken carrying one unit of credit or fraction of a unit as long as at least one course is taken in high school. See COMAR 13A.02.06.03(A)(7). If the high school student is enrolled in a credit-bearing course at an institution of higher education, the student will be included in the institution's FTE calculation like any other student enrolled in a credit-bearing course.

3. ***Under the law, how will tuition be paid for students who attend college while still in high school?***

   As of Fall, 2013: A public institution of higher education (IHE) may <u>not</u> charge tuition to a dually enrolled student (The law is silent on fees, such as books, activity fees, etc.). Institutions of higher education can charge applicable and reasonable fees for all dually enrolled students, including those who receive Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMs).

   Tuition Scale: Local Boards of Education pay the <u>lesser</u> of tuition costs for dually enrolled public secondary school students as follows:

   - **Category 1: First 4 courses** – Public Senior IHEs (PSIHEs) charge 75% of tuition. Community colleges charge 75% of tuition or 5% of per pupil foundation amount
   - **Category 2: 5 or more courses** – PSIHEs charge 90% of tuition, Community colleges charge 90% of tuition or 5% of per pupil foundation amount
   - **Category 3: For Agreements prior to July 1, 2013:** If lesser than categories 1 or 2, then the agreement is the basis for tuition. 18-14A-04

   Local Boards may recoup costs from students as follows:

   - <u>First 4 courses</u> - Boards may charge students tuition not to exceed 90% of the amount paid for tuition
   - <u>5 or more courses</u> – Boards may charge students tuition not to exceed 100% of the amount paid for tuition
   - Boards must waive tuition for students who are eligible for Free and Reduced Price Meals (FARMS).

   Note: If an agreement exists between a public school and a public IHE where the school agrees to pay for more than 4 courses, the public school shall pay for the number under the agreement. 18-14A.04. Students are encouraged to contact the college admissions office or their school counselor to seek further information.

LEA Reimbursement to Community Colleges per Dually Enrolled Course				
Community College	**Tuition Per Credit Hour**	**Fall 2013 Tuition for 3 Credit Hours**	**75% Tuition for 3 Credit Hours for 2013-2014**	**5% of Per Pupil Foundation Amount FY14**
Allegany College of Maryland	$107.00	$321.00	$240.75	$341.45
Anne Arundel Community College	$99.00	$297.00	$222.75	$341.45
Baltimore City Community College	$88.00	$264.00	$198.00	$341.45
Carroll Community College	$113.00	$339.00	$254.25	$341.45
Cecil College	$95.00	$285.00	$213.75	$341.45
Chesapeake College	$105.00	$315.00	$236.25	$341.45
College of Southern Maryland	$113.00	$339.00	$254.25	$341.45
Community College of Baltimore County	$109.00	$327.00	$245.25	$341.45
Frederick Community College	$112.00	$336.00	$252.00	$341.45
Garrett College	$94.00	$282.00	$211.50	$341.45
Hagerstown Community College	$107.00	$321.00	$240.75	$341.45
Harford Community College	$92.00	$276.00	$207.00	$341.45
Howard Community College	$125.00	$375.00	$281.25	$341.45
Montgomery College	$112.00	$336.00	$252.00	$341.45
Prince George's Community College	$100.00	$300.00	$225.00	$341.45
Wor-Wic Community College	$96.00	$288.00	$216.00	$341.45

Source: Department of Legislative Services, April 2013

4. ***Can local school systems establish requirements in local agreements that students must meet in order to dually enroll?***

   Yes, where agreements exist, high school students must meet mutually agreed on enrollment requirements between the school system and the institution of higher education. Students who dually enroll in one of the public senior IHEs (i.e., Morgan State University, St. Maryland's College of Maryland, and institutions in the University of System of Maryland) must meet established admission requirements for the institution.

5. ***Are local boards of education required to make students aware of the dual enrollment program?***

   Yes, local boards of education shall make all high school students who meet mutually agreed on enrollment requirements aware of the opportunity to dually enroll. 18-14A-05. Students who meet the requirements must be allowed to dually enroll.

6. ***How will parents and guardians be informed of the dual enrollment program?***

   Local boards of education must provide information to students about the opportunity to dually enroll. 18-14A-05.

7. ***Under the law, are there any age requirements for students who want to dually enroll in credit-bearing college courses?***

   No. Public institutions of higher education are permitted to accept students who have completed seventh grade and who have obtained a certain score on a nationally accepted college entrance examination. See Education

Article, § 15-101 (b). Some colleges have established their own minimum age requirements for students who want to take credit-bearing courses through early college or dual enrollment, so students should contact the admissions office before submitting an application. Where agreements exist, high school students must meet mutually agreed on enrollment requirements between the school system and the IHE.

8. ***Does there have to be an agreement signed by the administrators of the local school system and college(s) before students can dually enroll under the law?***

   No, however most community colleges have established agreements with local school systems. For public senior IHEs, students must present a letter from their school indicating that they are eligible for dual enrollment. Students who wish to dually enroll in a public senior IHE must meet the established admission requirements for the institution.

9. ***Under the law, are there any limitations to the number of courses that dually enrolled students take?***

   The law requires the local school system to pay for up to a maximum of four courses. 18-14A-04(B)(1) However, if there is an agreement between a local school and a public IHE in which the local school system agrees to pay for more than four courses at a public IHE for a dually enrolled student, the local school system shall pay for the number of courses under the agreement. 18-14A-04(D)

10. ***Under the law, can local school systems require students who want to participate in dual enrollment to take the Accuplacer or other college placement exams?***

    Yes

    a. **Are there any readiness requirements for students who want to be dually enrolled?** Where agreements exist, high school students must meet mutually agreed on enrollment requirements between the school system and the institution of higher education. Students who dually enroll in one of the public senior IHEs must meet established admission requirements for the institution.

    b. **Who is deciding which assessments will be used to determine whether a student is college-ready?** Assessments are being identified by a broadly representative subcommittee, comprised of both K-12 and higher education members, led by the Division of Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

    c. **What happens with students who need developmental education prior to enrolling in credit-bearing courses?** Students can either enroll in developmental courses provided by the local school system or pay for taking them at a community college. Students will not receive the tuition reductions under the law for enrolling in developmental courses.

11. ***What recourse do local school systems and parents have to recover costs paid to the college when a dual enrollment student drops a course during drop/add periods?***

    This decision is governed by the IHE's tuition refund policies. Representatives of local school systems and IHEs should communicate the policy to dually enrolled students and include it in the local agreement where one exists.

12. ***Is there any reduction in the tuition when high school teachers serve as adjunct college faculty members and are teaching dual enrollment courses in the high school instead of on the college campus?***

    The law does not address tuition reductions when high school teachers serve as college adjunct faculty.

13. ***Under the law, are local boards of education required to pay tuition for students who are dually enrolled in private institutions of higher education?***

    No, Section 18-14A-04 of the law directs local boards to pay tuition to public institutions of higher education for dually enrolled students and governs how local boards must make those payments. However, the law does not prohibit local boards from agreeing to pay tuition to private institutions for dual enrollment programs.

14. ***Are dually enrolled students able to apply for grants, scholarships, and loans?***

    There is a Dual Enrollment Grant Program (see Education Article, §§ 18-14A-01 – 14A-04). The program is for Maryland residents who are dually enrolled and who demonstrate financial need. However, this grant program is not currently funded. Dually enrolled students also are eligible for the Part-time Grant. See Education Article, §§ 18-1401 – 1402. This grant is for Maryland residents who attend college part-time and demonstrate financial need. Institutions may use up to 10% of their part-time grant funds for dually enrolled students. High school students who are enrolled in credit-bearing college courses are not eligible to apply for federal student loans or generally for state scholarships.

15. ***How are dually enrolled students who reside out of the service area of the community college or out-of-county charged tuition?***

    Students who are not attending the community college that services their local area high school are charged the lesser of 75% of the out-of-county tuition charge or 5% of the per pupil foundation amount. The lesser charge is likely to be the 5% of the per pupil foundation amount. Students living outside the state of Maryland do not qualify for this program.

16. ***If students do not meet the criteria to be dually enrolled under the law, can colleges still enroll them?***

    Yes. However, the college is allowed to charge the student full tuition and fees.

17. ***Under the law, are both credit bearing and non-credit bearing college courses covered for students who are dually enrolled?***

    The purpose of the law is to foster college completion. Requiring that students enroll in credit-bearing college courses helps students get an early start toward either an associate's or bachelor's degree by accumulating college credit while still in high school. Thus the intent of the statute is that LEAs need only to pay for credit – bearing courses.

18. ***Does the law apply to dually enrolled private secondary school students or homeschool students?***

    No, the law indicates that local school systems must pay for courses taken by dually enrolled students who are enrolled in a public secondary school in the state. 18-14A-04.

19. ***Does the law apply when a student takes summer college classes?***

    Students taking summer college classes are not eligible for the tuition reductions under the law.

20. ***Does the law apply when a student takes college classes during the winter term break/mini-mester?***

    Yes, since the winter term occurs during the regular school year, the law applies.

21. ***Must the courses a dual enrolled student takes at an IHE be only those courses that meet graduation credit requirements?***

No, limiting access in the dual enrollment program to only those courses satisfying high school graduation requirements is contrary to the intent of the legislature.

22. ***What is Dual Enrollment?*** In general, dual enrollment occurs when students enroll in credit-bearing college courses while still in high school. Colleges may sponsor structured programs in partnership with high schools and/or high school students may enroll of their own volition and attend afternoon, evening or weekend classes on campus. Dual enrollment programs can be located on college or high school campuses and can be taught by college instructors or specially credentialed high school instructors who are supervised by college faculty.

23. It is often assumed that college admissions officers look more favorably on high school students' transcripts if they enroll in honors, AP, or IB courses that result in a weighted grade point average (GPA). Most college courses do not provide weighted grades. What are the advantages to dually enrolling in credit-bearing college courses while in high school?

College admissions officers look at students' potential capacity to perform college level work. Taking and passing one or more credit-bearing college courses while still in high school is one way to demonstrate students' readiness for college-level work and to give them a head-start on college completion. Dual enrollment courses are actual college courses—rather than college-like or college level—and usually result in students' progress being recorded on an actual college transcript from a postsecondary institution.

24. Who at the state level is responsible for assisting local public school systems and two- and four-year colleges with implementation of the dual enrollment provisions under the law?

For questions regarding dual enrollment, please contact Dr. Lynne Gilli, Program Manager for the Career and Technology Education Instructional Branch at the Maryland State Department of Education at 410.767.0518 or by email at lgilli@msde.state.md.us

For questions that should be directed to the Maryland Higher Education Commission, please contact Dr. Jennifer Vest Frank, Acting Assistant Secretary at 410.767.3041 or by email at jfrank@mhec.state.md.us

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Glossary of Terms

The following definitions address the most frequently used forms of early college credit:

a. ***Dual credit:*** High school students earn both high school and college credits simultaneously for passing the same credit-bearing course.
b. ***Articulated credit:*** High school students earn college credit for a high school course that has been determined to be comparable to a credit-bearing college course. Credit is typically awarded retroactively after the student matriculates or enrolls in one or more courses at the partnering college.
c. ***Transcripted credit:*** High school students earn college credit and receive a transcript and a grade upon completing the course. Some colleges require students to pay an admission fee and/or course fee in order to receive the transcript.
d. ***College in the High School:*** Dual enrollment partnerships where college courses are taught in the high school, often by high school teachers. Students gain exposure to the academic challenges of college while remaining in their supportive high school environments, earning transcripted college credit at the time they successfully pass the course.
e. ***Concurrent enrollment:*** College courses for which students only receive college credit and are ineligible for credit from their high school.
f. ***Middle College High Schools*** are secondary schools , located on college campuses across the nation where students can earn college credit. They provide a rigorous academic program within a supportive learning environment to a student population that has been historically under-served or underrepresented in colleges. (see www.mcnc.us/about/faq).
g. ***Early College High Schools*** are schools with all the characteristics of Middle Colleges –Early Colleges also have a defined and structured program that enables the high school students to earn both their high school diplomas and their Associates Degree in 4 to 5 years (see www.earlycolleges.org/overview.html)
h. ***Advanced Placement (AP)*** is a program in the United States and Canada created by the College Board offering college-level curriculum and examinations to high school students. American colleges often grant placement and course credit to students who obtain high scores above a certain number on the examinations (see www.collegeboard.org).
i. ***The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma*** is awarded to students who complete a demanding two-year curriculum leading to final examinations that may qualify students for early college credit (see www.ibo.org).