
Dual Credit
Early College High School
Basics



Andrew Lofters, Ph.D.
Program Director
Academic Quality and Workforce

Dual Credit

- A process by which a high school student enrolls in a college course and receives simultaneous academic credit for the course from both the college and the high school.

Dual Credit Statute & Rules

Texas Education Code (TEC) 130.008

- Outlines how public junior colleges may establish dual credit partnerships with public and private high schools/school districts.

Texas Education Code (TEC) 28.009

- Requires that each school district implement a program under which students may earn at least 12 semester credit hours of college credit in high school.

Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 4, Sub. D

- Sections 4.81 through 4.85 (THECB)

Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 74, Sub. C

- Sections 74.25 (TEA)

Dual Credit Basics

Dual Credit Partnership

- Dual credit partnership (MOU) must be established between the governing boards of the college and public or private high school/district prior to offering courses.

Eligible Courses for Dual Credit

- ACGM credit courses
- WECM credit courses
- University's approved undergraduate course inventory
- No developmental education or remedial courses

Grade Level Eligibility

- High school students-as agreed upon in local policy

Dual Credit Course Load

- No limit in rules-as agreed upon in local policy

Historical Dual Credit Basics

Dual Credit Partnership

- Dual credit partnership (MOU) must be established between the governing boards of the public college and public school district or private high school prior to offering courses.

Eligible Courses for Dual Credit

- ACGM credit courses
- WECM credit courses
- University's approved undergraduate course inventory
- No developmental education or remedial courses

Grade Level Eligibility

- Eleventh and/or twelfth grade

Dual Credit Course Load

- Two courses per term

Historical Dual Credit Basics

Exceptions

Grade level

- Exceptions to this requirement for students with demonstrated outstanding academic performance and capability (as evidenced by achieving or exceeding the minimum TSI college readiness standards on SAT, ACT, or TSI Assessment) may be approved by the principal of the high school and the chief academic officer of the college.

Historical Dual Credit Basics

Exceptions

Course load

- Exceptions to this requirement for students with demonstrated outstanding academic performance and capability (as evidenced by grade-point average, ACT or SAT scores, or other assessment indicators) may be approved by the principal of the high school and the chief academic officer of the college to a maximum of 15 semester credit hours.

HB 505

SECTION 1. ...A rule may not limit:

(1) the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll while in high school;

(2) the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll each semester or academic year; or

(3) the grade levels at which a high school student may be eligible to enroll in a dual credit course.

SECTION 2. Section 130.008(f), Education Code, is repealed.

SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

HB 18

...A rule may not limit the number of dual credit courses or semester credit hours in which a student may enroll while in high school or limit the number of dual credit courses or semester credit hours in which a student may enroll each semester or academic year.

Dual Credit Basics

Dual Credit Partnership

- Dual credit partnership (MOU) must be established between the governing boards of the college and public or private high school/district prior to offering courses.

Eligible Courses for Dual Credit

- ACGM credit courses
- WECM credit courses
- University's approved undergraduate course inventory
- No developmental education or remedial courses

Grade Level Eligibility

- High school students-as agreed upon in local policy

Dual Credit Course Load

- No limit in rules-as agreed upon in local policy

Dual Credit Basics

Student Demonstration of Eligibility to Enroll

- Demonstration of TSI college readiness or exemption
 - TSI Assessment
 - ACT
 - SAT
 - Algebra II STARR EOC
 - English III STAAR EOC
- Dual credit course enrollment eligibility (all high school grades)
 - English II STAAR EOC
 - Algebra I STAAR EOC plus passing grade in Algebra II course
 - PSAT
 - PLAN/Aspire
- Not required for dual credit courses contained in a Workforce Education Level 1 Certificate or less.

Dual Credit Basics

Curriculum

- The college shall ensure that a dual credit course and the corresponding course offered at the main campus of the college are **equivalent** with respect to curriculum, materials, instruction, and method/rigor of student evaluation.

Faculty

- Faculty must meet the same standards and approval procedures used by the college to select faculty responsible for teaching the same courses at the main campus of the college. Dual credit faculty qualifications specified in TEC 130.008(g).
- The college shall supervise and evaluate instructors of dual credit courses using the same procedures used for faculty at the main campus of the college.

Dual Credit Basics

Funding

- An institution of higher education may waive all or part of tuition and fees for students enrolled in dual credit courses.
- In its instruction and operations formula applicable to an institution of higher education, the board may not include any SCH earned from college courses offered for dual credit unless they are earned through courses in the institution's core curriculum, career and technical education courses, or foreign language courses. (TEC 61.059)

Junior/Community College Service Area

- **No service area restrictions for dual credit courses.**

HB 505

SECTION 1. ...A rule may not limit:

(1) the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll while in high school;

(2) the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll each semester or academic year; or

(3) the grade levels at which a high school student may be eligible to enroll in a dual credit course.

SECTION 2. Section 130.008(f), Education Code, is repealed.

SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

130.008 Prior to 84th Legislature

Sec. 130.008. COURSES FOR JOINT HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR COLLEGE CREDIT.

(d) A public junior college may enter into an agreement with a school district, organization, or other person that operates a high school to offer a course as provided by this section regardless of whether the high school is located within the service area of the junior college district.

(f) Except as provided by this section, a student may not enroll in more than three courses under this section at a junior college if the junior college does not have a service area that includes the student's high school. A student enrolled at an early college high school may enroll in a greater number of courses to the extent approved by the commissioner of education.

130.008 After 84th Legislature

Sec. 130.008. COURSES FOR JOINT HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR COLLEGE CREDIT.

(d) A public junior college may enter into an agreement with a school district, organization, or other person that operates a high school to offer a course as provided by this section regardless of whether the high school is located within the service area of the junior college district.

Dual Credit Basics

Funding

- An institution of higher education may waive all or part of tuition and fees for students enrolled in dual credit courses.
- In its instruction and operations formula applicable to an institution of higher education, the board may not include any SCH earned from college courses offered for dual credit unless they are earned through courses in the institution's core curriculum, career and technical education courses, or foreign language courses. (TEC 61.059)

Junior/Community College Service Area

- No service area restrictions for dual credit courses.

ECHS Statute & Rules

Texas Education Code (TEC) 29.908

- Requires TEA to establish and administer an early college education program for students who are at risk of dropping out of school or who wish to accelerate completion of the high school program.
- Allows a participating student to complete high school and, on or before the fifth anniversary of the date of the student's first day of high school, receive a high school diploma and either:
 - (A) an associate degree; or
 - (B) at least 60 semester credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree

Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 4, Sub. G

- Sections 4.151 through 4.161 (THECB)

Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 102, Sub. GG

- Section 102.1091 (TEA)

ECHS Basics

Designation and Renewal

- TEA

ECHS MOU

- An ECHS/dual credit MOU must be established between the governing boards of the college and public or private high school/district prior to implementation of the program.

Eligible Courses

- ACGM credit courses
- WECM credit courses
- University's approved undergraduate course inventory
- No developmental education or remedial courses.

Grade Level Eligibility

- Freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior high school standing

Dual Credit Course Load

- May enroll in more than dual credit two courses per semester

ECHS Basics

Student Demonstration of Eligibility to Enroll

- Demonstration of TSI college readiness or exemption
(Initial testing required for ECHS students)
 - TSI Assessment
 - ACT
 - SAT
 - Algebra II STARR EOC
 - English III STAAR EOC
- Dual credit course enrollment eligibility (not college readiness)
 - English II STAAR EOC
 - Algebra I STAAR EOC plus passing grade in Algebra II course
 - PSAT
 - PLAN/Aspire
- Not required for dual credit courses contained in a Workforce Education Level 1 Certificate or less.

ECHS Basics

Curriculum

- The college shall ensure that a dual credit course and the corresponding course offered at the main campus of the college are equivalent with respect to curriculum, materials, instruction, and method/rigor of student evaluation.

Faculty

- Faculty must meet the same standards and approval procedures used by the college to select faculty responsible for teaching the same courses at the main campus of the college. Dual credit faculty qualifications specified in TEC 130.008(g).
- The college shall supervise and evaluate instructors of dual credit courses using the same procedures used for faculty at the main campus of the college.

ECHS Basics

Funding

- State funding for high school and college credit will be available to the public school district and the C/U based on the current funding rules of the State Board of Education and the Board.
- A student enrolled in an ECHS course for high school graduation credit may not be required to pay for tuition, fees, or required textbooks. The school district or charter in which the student is enrolled shall pay for tuition, fees, and required textbooks, to the extent those charges are not waived by the institution of higher education.

Junior/Community College Service Area

- No restrictions

Implications

- Increased access to college course options for high school students.
- Possible additional dual credit eligibility requirement changes.
- Institutions of higher education are able to form dual credit partnerships with high schools outside of their service area.
- Dual Credit vs ECHS.
- Concerns regarding college level rigor, student outcomes, transferability, and degree applicability.
- Advising is crucial!!!

Dual Credit Contact:

Andrew Lofters, Ph.D.

Program Director

Academic Quality and Workforce

Andrew.Lofters@thehb.state.tx.us

(512) 427-6239

