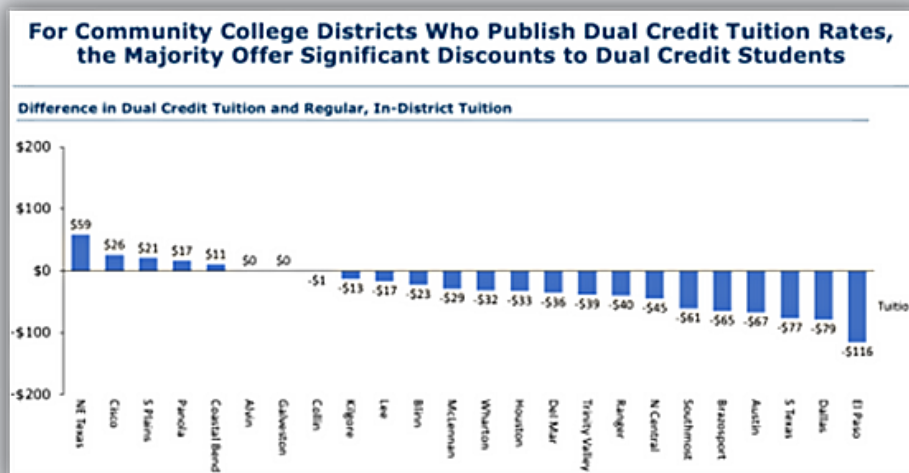


MAKING DUAL CREDIT ACCESSIBLE TO ALL TEXAS STUDENTS

Dual credit participation has shown to increase postsecondary retention, success and completion [1] and now represents roughly 25% of total community college enrollment across Texas. Yet cost and access to course offerings vary widely for high school students based on their zip code.

Due to current funding constraints, some Texas community colleges cannot afford to expand access through tuition waivers, with student costs ranging as high as \$4,140.[2] In contrast, other community colleges have aggressively expanded access, especially to serve students from low-income backgrounds, but may struggle to sustain their efforts long-term without additional state funding.

Community college districts in Dallas, El Paso, South Texas, and Austin offer significant discounts to dual credit students, while others offer no discount or, in some cases, charge more than regular tuition.



Source: TACC/College websites. Some colleges are excluded if their websites do not contain dual credit tuition information. Difference is calculated as one dual credit hour – one regular, in-district tuition hour. Fees are excluded. For colleges with multiple dual credit rates for ISDs, the highest of the values was taken.

1 Troutman, David, et al. (2018). *Dual Credit Study: Dual Credit and Success in College*, The University of Texas System

2 https://assets.nationbuilder.com/aimhiretexas/pages/27/attachments/original/1659458222/Coalition_Report_Recommendations_07.21.2022.pdf?1659458222



This fact sheet was created by Angel Donjuan Garcia, Christian Elizondo, Kristie Davis, and Isabel Torres. They are members of the Student Advisory Council, a program organized and supported by Young Invincibles, The Education Trust in Texas, Every Texan, and Breakthrough Central Texas as a joint initiative of the Texas Postsecondary Advocates Coalition for Equity (TX PACE). Learn more at <https://www.txpace.org/student-advisory-council>.

MAKING DUAL CREDIT ACCESSIBLE TO ALL TEXAS STUDENTS

The Student Advisory Council (SAC) has identified three policy recommendations to make dual credit more affordable and accessible for high school students throughout Texas:

1. Prioritizing dual credit affordability and access for students from low-income backgrounds. To level the playing field for high school students who can least afford to pay tuition and fees, the state should direct funding to community colleges to fully cover these costs based on students' already-established economically disadvantaged status. State aid for dual credit should avoid complex and time-consuming student applications that would create new barriers to access.

2. Reflecting the cost and value of dual credit within the state's funding formulas. To expand and sustain dual credit statewide, community colleges should be rewarded for increasing enrollment and completion within the Contact Hour and Student Success Points formulas, respectively. Importantly, outcomes-based funding should be non-competitive and weighted to incentivize the success of populations that have been under-represented in dual credit enrollment and completion.

3. Incentivizing dual credit offerings that add value for students. Dual credit has the potential to dramatically improve students' college and career success when these courses are aligned and apply to academic credentials and industry certifications. When this isn't the case, students may not gain the full benefit of dual credit.

When affordable, accessible, and aligned to credentials of value, dual credit is a proven strategy to accelerate student success and meet the postsecondary attainment goals for a **Talent Strong Texas**, especially for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. Over the past two decades, community colleges have stepped up to provide more of these opportunities to students across Texas, and now is the time for the state to invest strategically and equitably in the future of dual credit.



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