The Florida College System Transparency, Accountability, Progress, and Performance

What are the overall dual enrollment trends? To what extent are students from different types of secondary schools participating in dual enrollment?

In July 2012, the Community College Research Center (CCRC) at the Teachers College, Columbia University, released its findings from a three-year study, *Broadening the Benefits of Dual Enrollment*, in which the outcomes of nearly 3,000 students participating in eight dual enrollment programs in California were tracked. The CCRC found that, on average, students in the study who participated in dual enrollment were:

- More likely to graduate from high school,
- More likely to transition to a four-year college (rather than a two-year college),
- Less likely to take basic skills/developmental education courses in college,
- More likely to persist in postsecondary education, and
- Accumulated more college credits (versus other acceleration mechanisms).

These findings parallel a 2008 study in which the CCRC examined outcomes of dual enrollment students in Florida where dual enrollment participation increased the likelihood of: enrolling in a four-year institution; enrolling full-time; persisting in college to a second semester; having higher grade point averages one year after high school graduation; and earning more postsecondary credits. Additionally, the CCRC found that male and low-income students benefited more from participating in dual enrollment than their peers.

The FCS has a long history of providing dual enrollment courses to Florida high school students. It is important to note that students must qualify to participate in dual enrollment. Typically this includes: having a 3.0 unweighted GPA to enroll in college credit courses, or a 2.0 unweighted GPA to enroll in career certificate courses; passing the appropriate section of the college placement test (PERT); and meeting any additional admissions criteria specified by the postsecondary institution in the district inter-institutional articulation agreement.

Figure 1 shows overall dual enrollment student headcount data from 2000-01 to 2013-14 across secondary delivery systems. During the 14 year period, dual enrollment headcount enrollments increased 79.9 percent. Short term, overall dual enrollment student headcount grew slightly over last year with an increase of 828 students or 1.6 percent (52,457 to 53,285). At the institutional level, compared to last year an equal number of colleges reported increases (N = 13) and decreases (N = 13) in the overall number of dual enrollment students. Two colleges showed little change (less than one percent compared to the previous year).

Dual enrollment full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments more than doubled from 8,589 in 2000-01 to 20,607 in 2013-14. Additionally, in 2000-01, dual enrollment students accounted for 3.5 percent of total system FTE. This figure increased by 2.6 percentage points to 6.1 percent in 2013-14. Short term overall dual enrollment FTEs showed little change versus last year (0.2 percent and 51 students). At the institutional level, dual enrollment FTEs decreased at 14 colleges, increased at 12 institutions, and showed little change at 2 colleges.

Students from all types of secondary delivery systems benefited from dual enrollment in 2013-14. Figure 2 shows, based on an annual count (duplicated by delivery system), public high schools accounted for 9 out of 10 dual enrollment students, private high school accounted for 6.0 percent, and home schooled individuals accounted for 4.1 percent of the students. Compared to last year, of the three types of delivery systems, public schools had the greatest percentage increase in dual enrollment participation (4.1 percent, 1,900 students) and 16 colleges showed gains. Home school student dual enrollment participation showed little change (-0.5 percent or -12 students) with 11 colleges showing increases. Private school student participation decreased -23.9 percent or -996 students with 6 colleges reporting increases.

Visit the Florida College System webpage to learn more about dual enrollment and find additional resources. The Florida Virtual Campus also outlines acceleration options for high school students.

For assistance, contact Florida College System Research & Analytics

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