
To: Directors of Education
Council of Ontario Directors of Education
College Presidents
Colleges Ontario
Regional Offices, Ministry of Education
Regional and Field Offices, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development

From: School College Work Initiative

Date: November 3, 2016

Subject: School College Work Initiative Request for Proposals, 2017-2020

The School College Work Initiative (SCWI) is once again inviting joint applications from colleges of applied arts and technology and district school boards for collaborative Dual Credit programs and activities for the 2017-2020 academic years. Please forward this memorandum to the appropriate staff in your organization. As in the past, proposals must be submitted by SCWI Regional Planning Teams. Proposals will be submitted online. Detailed requirements can be found at www.scwi.ca.

Building and sustaining better linkages between the college system and the secondary school system to support expanded and improved transitions by secondary students to postsecondary education is a strategic goal for the Government of Ontario and a high priority for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. The overarching goal for the Student Success Strategy is to have increased numbers of students graduating from high school. Dual Credit learning opportunities help to achieve this goal through their primary focus on those students facing significant challenges in graduating. Supporting improved achievement for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and Children and Youth in Care continues to be an area of focus for the Ministry of Education.

Since its inception in 1997, the SCWI has contributed to the goal of increasing the number of students who graduate from secondary school and providing a seamless transition from secondary school to postsecondary education by supporting collaborative activities and programs.

SCWI Activities and Forums

There are two types of SCWI Activities and Forums:

- Dual Credit Educator Forums which provide opportunities for both secondary school and college educators to better understand the policies and procedures of dual credit programs, and to plan for their students in these programs, and
- One day, hands-on college experiences for grades 7-12 students.

Dual Credit Programs

The primary focus of Dual Credit programs continues to be on those students facing challenges in earning their secondary school diploma. This includes disengaged and underachieving students under the age of 21 who have the potential to succeed at college but who are at risk of not graduating from high school, and students who have left high school before graduating, including students participating in boards' re-engagement initiatives. Proposals are also encouraged for Dual Credit learning opportunities for students in college-delivered Level 1 OYAP programs as well as students in Specialist High Skills Major programs.

Dual Credit Programs: Policy and Program Requirements, 2013

(<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/studentssuccess/dual.html>) contains the relevant policy and procedural details that are to be followed in the implementation of Dual Credit programs. Of particular importance are the sections on student selection, the requirement to assign a dual credit teacher for college-delivered programs, and the policy on assessment and evaluation in those programs.

Funding and Accountability

Funding will be contingent upon successful fulfilment of prior program commitments and funds being appropriated by the Ontario Legislature, as per current practice. This Request for Proposals continues the use of a three-year planning time frame. The forecasts for 2018-19 and 2019-20 are required for planning purposes. Approvals for the second and third year will be made annually.

Regional Planning Teams will be required to meet reporting requirements including SMART goals, and data and financial reports as outlined in *School College Work Initiative (SCWI), Reporting, Approval & Monitoring Process for 2016-2017 School Year.*

Highlights from 2015-16

Preliminary data from 2015-16, indicates the following:

Of the 20,264 students enrolled in dual credit programs across the province,

- 18,120 (89%) students enrolled in dual credit programs remained until the end.
- 15,100 (75%) students enrolled in dual credit programs were identified as being disengaged and underachieving, the primary target group for whom Dual Credits were designed.
- 5,886 (29%) students enrolled in dual credit programs were reported to have an IEP.
- 2,125 (10%) students were reported to have previously left school and returned.

Of the 21,977 dual credits attempted, 19,917 dual credits were earned (Success Rate: 91%).

- The sixteen Regional Planning Teams received SCWI approval for 94 activities and forums. Over 38,500 students, teachers, college faculty and administrators participated in these opportunities.

(Note: Figures reported are preliminary based on available EDCS data current as of September, 2016. Figures are subject to change pending final data.)

Rubrics were refined and used to make decisions about approval of Dual Credits, Activities and Forums.

The program's provincial websites (www.gotocollege.ca) and a website for Regional Planning Teams, administrators and educators (www.scwi.ca) continue to support the promotion and delivery of the Dual Credit program.

Thank you for your continued support of this important initiative.



Frank Kelly,
SCWI Project Manager