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**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 Colleges and Universities

**From:** School-College-Work Initiative

**Date:** January 17, 2020

**Subject:** School-College-Work Initiative Request for Proposals, 2020-2023

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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 2020-2023 academic years. A key priority of the government is on promoting and enhancing awareness of and enrolment in the skilled trades, technology and apprenticeship pathway. When planning your proposals for the 2020-21 academic year, we are requesting that you place greater emphasis on these types of opportunities for students. 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 <http://www.scwi.ca/requirements.php>.

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. 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 continue to be areas of focus of the initiative. The primary focus of Dual Credit learning opportunities is on those students facing significant challenges in graduating, thereby helping more students graduate from secondary school and transition into postsecondary education.

## **SCWI Activities and Forums**

SCWI approved Activities and Forums contribute to the two goals of the SCWI. The following are the 2020-21 priority areas for SCWI Activities and Forums:

- One day, hands-on college experiences for grades 7-12 students,
- Activities that promote mentoring for Grade 7 and 8 students by a college student

- or apprentice,
- Activities for grades 7-12 students and adult students with a particular focus on technology and trades,
  - Dual Credit Educator Forums which provide opportunities for both secondary school dual credit teachers, college dual credit educators and Level 1 apprenticeship instructors to better understand the policies and procedures of dual credit programs, and to plan for their students in these programs,
  - Enhanced parent/guardian forums that are delivered at local Postsecondary Education (PSE) institutions and provide information to parents to support awareness about PSE opportunities, pathways, and resources to provide smooth transitions,
  - Activities for adult students in Adult Day Schools and Continuing Education Centres to expand awareness of adult dual credits and/or improve transitions for adult students to college and apprenticeship,
  - Forums for classroom teachers to include information on how to better support students with PSE pathway planning.

## 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.

The Adult Dual Credit Pilot Program, which started in 2017-18, has the potential to help adult students (aged 21 and older) complete their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and transition into postsecondary education. Adult dual credit students will be selected based on the criteria identified in the SCWI 2020-21 Requirements document.

Proposals are also encouraged for Dual Credit learning opportunities for students in OYAP Level 1 in-school apprenticeship training as well as for students in Specialist High Skills Major programs.

All School Within A College (SWAC) dual credits and all Adult Dual Credit programs are required to have an After SWAC or After Adult Dual Credit component which supports students in making a smooth transition to PSE.

*Dual Credit Programs: Policy and Program Requirements*, (<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. Adult dual credit pilot programs will be governed by existing dual credit policy and procedures.

## **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 2021-22 and 2022-23 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 2020-2021 School Year.*

## **Highlights from 2018-19**

Preliminary data from 2018-19 indicates the following:

There were students enrolled in 21,799 dual credits across the province. Of these students:

- 19,290 (89%) students enrolled in Dual Credit programs remained until the end.
- 18,117 (83%) students enrolled in Dual Credit programs were identified as being disengaged and underachieving, the primary target group for whom Dual Credits were designed.
- 6,482 (30%) students enrolled in Dual Credit programs were reported to have an IEP.
- 2,418 (11%) students were reported to have previously left school and returned.

Of the dual credits attempted, 20,696 dual credits were earned (Success Rate: 91%).

- The thirteen English-language and three French-language Regional Planning Teams, received SCWI approval for 202 activities and forums. Over 45,000 students, teachers, college faculty and administrators participated in these opportunities.

(Note: Figures reported are preliminary and based on available EDCS data current as of September, 2019. Figures are subject to change pending final data.)

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

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Council of Ontario Directors of Education

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*Representing:*  
*Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne (AGÉFO)*  
*Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA)*  
*Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association (OPSOA)*

The program's provincial website ([www.gotocollege.ca](http://www.gotocollege.ca)) and a website for Regional Planning Teams, administrators and educators ([www.scwi.ca](http://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.

Tony Pontes,  
SCWI Project Manager