

---

**To:** **Directors of Education**  
**Directeur de l'éducation, Consortium Centre Jules-Léger**  
**Council of Ontario Directors of Education**  
**College Presidents**  
**Colleges Ontario**  
**Regional Offices, Ministry of Education**  
**Regional and Field Offices, Ministry of Colleges and Universities**  
**Regional Offices, Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development**

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

**Date:** **December 9, 2020**

**Subject:** **School-College-Work Initiative Request for Proposals, 2021-2024**

---

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 2021-2024 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 2021-22 academic year, we are requesting that you continue to 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 (RPTs). Proposals will be submitted online. Detailed requirements can be found at <http://scwi.ca/scwi/requirements.php>. This RFP is based on the assumption that the majority of students will be in face-to-face attendance at schools and colleges. RPTs will be provided opportunities to adjust their proposals if necessary through the usual change cycle process, including if face-to-face attendance is not possible.

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 2021-22 priority areas for SCWI Activities and Forums:

- One day, hands-on college experiences for Grades 7-12 students and adult students with a particular focus on technology and trades,
- Activities that promote mentoring for Grade 7 and 8 students by a college student or apprentice,
- 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 students under the age of 21 who have the potential to succeed at college but who are not reaching their full academic potential, 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.

Adult Dual Credits have 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 2021-24 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 a Wrap Around SWAC or Wrap Around Adult Dual Credit component which supports students in making a smooth transition to PSE.

*Dual Credit Programs: Policy and Program Requirements, 2020*

(<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/studentsuccess/DualCreditPro.pdf>) 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 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 and further allocated to this specific program, as per current practice. This Request for Proposals continues the use of a three-year planning time frame. The forecasts for 2022-23 and 2023-24 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 2019-20**

Preliminary data from 2019-20 indicates the following:

There were students enrolled in 20,638 dual credits across the province. Of these students:

- 17,044 (83%) students enrolled in Dual Credit programs remained until the end.
- 17,625 (85%) students enrolled in Dual Credit programs were identified as disengaged with the potential to succeed, the primary target group for whom Dual Credits were designed.
- 5,560 (27%) students enrolled in Dual Credit programs were reported to have an IEP.
- 1,907 (9%) students were reported to have previously left school and returned.

Due to school and college closures in the Spring of 2020, RPTs were not required to report on the retention or success of dual credit students in semester 2 courses; therefore, provincial retention and success rates were not calculated. Nonetheless, RPTs rapidly adjusted dual credit offerings following the March closures with innovative approaches to supporting DC students virtually where needed across the province.

- The thirteen English-language and three French-language Regional Planning Teams received SCWI approval for 202 activities and forums. Over 45,000

# CODE

Council of Ontario Directors of Education

---

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

students, teachers, college faculty and administrators participated in these opportunities often in new and creative ways due to COVID-19.

(Note: Figures reported are preliminary and based on available EDCS data current as of September, 2020.)

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

The program's provincial website for students and their parents or guardians ([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