



## Benchmarks for Activities/Forums

In 1997, the School-College-Work Initiative (SCWI) began with Activities/Forums that were originally created to assist with the first goal of SCWI: to provide a seamless transition to post-secondary education.

Activities/Forums consist of hands-on, half-day or full-day in-person events on college campuses or at schools, or virtual events, kits or resources that provide students, parents, and teachers with opportunities to increase their awareness of and exposure to college and apprenticeship pathways. These events and/or resources fall outside of college recruitment programs.

Funding from SCWI covers all delivery costs of school boards and colleges. There is no cost to participants.

Priorities for Activities/Forums are:

- Providing students from Grades 7 to 12 with an on-campus hands-on experience.
- Providing kits or resources with supporting materials for teachers to be used in elementary or secondary classes to provide greater understanding of college and apprenticeship pathways.
- Providing virtual opportunities for Grades 7 to 12 that engage students in college and apprenticeship pathways.
- Delivering a centralized Dual Credit Forum or a series of decentralized Forums designed for secondary teachers and college faculty directly involved in Dual Credit program delivery to discuss roles, responsibilities, policies, procedures, and logistics, virtually or in person. College faculty and Dual Credit teachers can use this opportunity to share successful practices in areas such as instruction, assessment, evaluation, and student supports. Forums are funded to a maximum of \$7,500/RPT. In certain cases where RPT geography may be a barrier, RPTs may also request funding to cover transportation costs.
  - If funds allow, RPTs may provide Dual Credit program information to the general secondary school population to support understanding and recruitment within the total funding of \$7,500 maximum for the Dual Credit Forum.
  - If funds allow, RPTs may provide a forum for teachers, faculty and advisors involved in the School Within a College (SWAC) program within the total funding of \$7,500 maximum for the Dual Credit Forum.

Approval of Activities/Forums are based on:

- Rationale outlined in EDCS with evidence of RPT collaboration and planning processes.
- Reasonable and appropriate use of public funds.
- Expenditures within current RPT Activity and Forum funding eligibility.
- Data from previous years for the Activity proposed including participation numbers and financial information.
- Overnight accommodation will be considered only when necessary because of distance.
- Funding for activities from sources other than SCWI must be declared in EDCS program details. Activities that have other funding sources may not be fully funded.

Activity/Forum funding may also be used to fund Dual Credit seats upon approval.

## Funding Categories

Activities/Forums can either be requested through the standard benchmark (\$50/participant) OR through itemized Miscellaneous funds.

In all Activities, whether funding is requested through the benchmark or through miscellaneous, RPTs may request funding in the request lines for "Teacher Release Time" and "Transportation" if needed.

## Benchmark Funding

When the benchmark is requested, the following costs are included:

- Facilities
- Planning, coordination, or program development
- A/V tech
- Purchase of materials or resources
- Meetings or sessions
- Faculty and support staff
- Teacher release time where teachers are accompanying their students to the college
- Financial services institution administration fees

Please note: Food and catering

- RPTs are encouraged to have participants supply their own lunch/snacks. RPTs can also consider running half-day events to reduce costs.

## Miscellaneous Funding

Where benchmark funding is either too high or too low, itemized Miscellaneous funding may be requested instead, adhering to the categories listed above under Benchmark Funding. Please use the Miscellaneous section in EDCS.

## Teacher Release Time

Funding can be requested for teacher release time, if required. Please use the Teacher Release section on the Funding page in EDCS and include the number of hours and the school board's hourly rate for teachers.

## Transportation

Please use the Government of Ontario rates for teacher/faculty travel (\$0.40/km for Southern Ontario and \$0.41/km for Northern Ontario). Please use the Transportation section on the Funding page in EDCS and include your formula calculations in the notes box.

Please contact Janine Griffore at [Janine.griffore@ontariodirectors.ca](mailto:Janine.griffore@ontariodirectors.ca) if you have any questions.