

Policies

PURPOSE

The Dual Enrollment Policy is designed to support the enrollment of Westerly High School students in courses designed to provide an early college experience, with the opportunity to earn college credit(s). This Policy ensures Westerly Public Schools are in full compliance with the Dual Enrollment Opportunity Act (R.I.G.L. 16-100).

DESIRED OUTCOME

Students will have increased options to take and earn credit in postsecondary coursework, families will see reduced costs for college, and students will be more likely to achieve postsecondary success and earn degrees

DEFINITIONS

Concurrent Enrollment: A student is enrolled in a dual enrollment course that is offered at the secondary school and taught by a secondary school teacher who may be approved by the postsecondary institution(s). Courses in which the potential is available to earn postsecondary credit, such as Advanced Placement programs in which articulation agreements are available, are included.

Dual Enrollment: A student is enrolled in a secondary school while simultaneously enrolled part-time or full-time as a non-matriculating student at a postsecondary institution, such as a community college, college, or university.

Early College Enrollment: A senior who is accepted and enrolls as a postsecondary full-time student in a degree program may substitute that program for his/her senior year.

Postsecondary Institution: R.I. public institutions of higher education.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Westerly Public Schools will support existing programs that provide the best opportunity for the maximum amount of students to fulfill the aims of the policy (e.g. CCR1 Operation Running Start, Rhode Island College Early Enrollment Program, Advanced Placement courses).
- Westerly Public Schools will ensure that students earn both high school and post-secondary credit and that these credits are recorded on the student transcript, provided students meet all requirements, including but not limited to those concerning grading, attendance, and conduct.
- Dual enrollment courses will count toward a student's high school coursework graduation requirements if the student (1) Meets WHS requirements, including but not limited to those concerning attendance and conduct. (2) Complies with the postsecondary institution's course policies and successfully completes the course. Westerly Public Schools' assigned staff will work with the assigned staff at the postsecondary institution to oversee the enrollment of students in dual and concurrent enrollment courses.
- For any concurrent enrollment course, WPS is responsible for providing students with disabilities, the protections, services and accommodations as prescribed by federal and state law.

- LEAs that hold articulation agreements with higher education institutions outside those covered by the state policy should make that information available to students and families
- WPS will encourage participation of underserved populations in this program.
- WPS will develop programs to prepare and train their teaching staff to teach concurrent and advanced placement courses.
- It is the LEA and the school administrator(s) responsibility to ensure that students, staff, volunteers, and parents/legal guardians are provided information regarding the local DE policy.

ELIGIBILITY

All students are eligible to participate in early college, dual and concurrent enrollment courses, given the availability of space. Specific prerequisite courses are identified in the Program of Studies. The approval of the principal may be denied or withdrawn when (1) a student is not on-track to graduate on-time and has not met Graduation Portfolio benchmarks, (2) a student's GPA falls below 3.0, (3) a student's conduct negatively impacts his/her achievement, and (4) a student violates the Attendance Policy.

GRADING, COURSE CREDIT, AND ACCOMMODATIONS

Grading for concurrent enrollment courses will be in accord with the Secondary Grading Policy. Grading for dual enrollment and early college enrollment courses will be in accord with that of the postsecondary institution. A record of courses and grades will be included on the student transcript. All earned credits will count toward a Westerly High School Diploma. Courses will be weighted in accord with guidance provided in the Program of Studies.

The District will not be responsible for providing any accommodations that would otherwise be required to be provided by the post-secondary institution.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Westerly Public Schools shall support, subject to the appropriate level of funding from the state, the cost of providing early college, dual and concurrent enrollment for all students. Given the postsecondary benefit, students and families may be asked to contribute all or a portion of the cost of providing early college, dual and concurrent enrollment programming. No low-income student shall be denied access to early college, dual or concurrent enrollment coursework on their inability to pay course related tuition and fees. The District will not provide transportation to postsecondary institutions. A student who has otherwise completed his or her high school graduation requirements may not continue to enroll as a student in the District by participating in programs detailed in this policy.

COMMUNICATION

Opportunities and guidelines, including potential benefits and consequences, for the participation of students in early college, dual and concurrent enrollment courses will be published in the Program of Studies.