

# Texas Dual Credit Landscape

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# Statutes and Rules

# Dual Credit Statute & Rules

## **Texas Education Code (TEC) 130.008 (1995)**

- Outlines how public junior colleges may establish dual credit partnerships with public and private high schools/school districts.

## **Texas Education Code (TEC) 28.009 (2006)**

- Requires that each school district implement a program under which students may earn at least 12 semester credit hours of college credit in high school.

## **Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 4, Sub. D (2003)**

- Sections 4.81 through 4.87 (THECB)

## **Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 74, Sub. C (2000)**

- Sections 74.25 (TEA)

# ECHS Statute & Rules

## Texas Education Code (TEC) 29.908 (2003)

- Requires TEA to establish and administer an early college education program for students who are at risk of dropping out of school or who wish to accelerate completion of the high school program.
- Allows a participating student to complete high school and, on or before the fifth anniversary of the date of the student's first day of high school, receive a high school diploma and either:
  - (A) an applied associate degree, as defined by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule; or
  - (B) an academic associate degree, as defined by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule, with a completed field of study curriculum developed under Section 61.823 that is transferable toward a baccalaureate degree at one or more general academic teaching institutions

## Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 4, Sub. G (2005)

- Sections 4.151 through 4.16 (THECB)

## Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 102, Sub. GG (2007)

- Section 102.1091 (TEA)

## ECHS Designation and Renewal - TEA

# P-TECH Statute & Rules

## (Pathways in Technology Early College High School)

### Texas Education Code (TEC) 29.553 (2017)

- Must be an open enrollment program that allows a participating 9th -12th grade student to complete high school and, on or before the sixth anniversary of the date of the student's first day of high school, receive a high school diploma and :
  - an associate degree, a two-year postsecondary certificate, or industry certification; and
  - complete an internship, apprenticeship, or other job training program.
- The P-TECH program must be provided at no cost to participating students.

### Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 4, Sub. G (2019)

- Sections 4.151 through 4.161 (THECB)

### Texas Administrative Code TAC Ch. 102, Sub. GG (2018)

- Section 102.1095 (TEA)

### P-TECH Designation and Renewal - TEA

# Dual Credit Goals

# Statewide Dual Credit Goals

- Independent school districts and institutions of higher education will implement purposeful and collaborative outreach efforts to **inform all students and parents of the benefits and costs of dual credit**, including enrollment and fee policies.
- Dual credit programs will **assist high school students in the successful transition to and acceleration through postsecondary education**.
- All dual credit students will **receive academic and college readiness advising with access to student support services** to bridge them successfully into college course completion.
- The **quality and rigor of dual credit courses** will be sufficient to **ensure student success in subsequent courses**.

# TSI Applicability, Definitions, and Exemptions



# **Texas Success Initiative**

## **Applicability**

**(TAC Section 4.52)**

**(b) This subchapter does not apply to the following students, and an institution shall not require these students to demonstrate college readiness pursuant to this subchapter. The following figure contains the full list of student categories to whom this subchapter does not apply.**

**(4) A student enrolled in high school who is a non-degree-seeking student as defined in §4.53(8) of this subchapter (relating to Definitions);**

# **Texas Success Initiative**

## **Definitions**

**(TAC Section 4.53)**

**(8) Non-Degree-Seeking Student--A student who has not filed a degree plan with an institution of higher education and is not required to do so pursuant to Texas Education Code, §51.9685.**

# Required Filing of Degree Plan

(TEC Section 51.9685)

A student enrolled in a dual credit course at an institution of higher education...shall file a degree plan with the institution not later than:

(1) the end of the second regular semester or term immediately following the semester or term in which the student earned a cumulative total of 15 or more semester credit hours of course credit for dual credit courses successfully completed by the student;  
or

(2) if the student begins the student's first semester or term at the institution with 15 or more semester credit hours of course credit for dual credit courses successfully completed by the student, the end of the student's second regular semester or term at the institution.

# Texas Success Initiative Exemption (TAC Section 4.54)

(e) In accordance with the requirements of this subchapter, an institution shall not require a student who is exempt in mathematics, reading, and/or writing or to whom this subchapter is inapplicable under §4.52 of this subchapter (relating to Applicability) to be assessed under this subchapter or to enroll in developmental coursework or interventions in the corresponding area of exemption. This limitation does not restrict an institution from advising a student to complete additional coursework or interventions to increase the likelihood of the student's success in completing the courses and program in which the student enrolls.

# Dual Credit Definitions

# Career and Technical Education Course

(TAC Section 4.83)

**(3) Career and Technical Education Course--A workforce or continuing education college course offered by an institution of higher education for which a high school student may earn credit toward satisfaction of a requirement necessary to obtain an industry-recognized credential, certificate, or associate degree.**

**(A) A career and technical education course is listed in the Workforce Education Course Manual (WECM).**

**(B) For the purpose of this subchapter, this definition excludes:**

**(i) an avocational course;**

**(ii) a continuing education course that is ineligible for conversion as articulated college credit; and**

**(iii) a continuing education course that does not meet the institution's program or instructor accreditation standards.**

# Equivalent of a Semester Credit Hour

(TAC Section 4.83)

(11) Equivalent of a Semester Credit Hour--A unit of measurement for a continuing education course, determined as a ratio of one continuing education unit to 10 contact hours of instruction. This may be expressed as a decimal of 1.6 continuing education units of instruction which equals one semester credit hour of instruction. In a continuing education course, not fewer than 16 contact hours are equivalent to one semester credit hour.

# Degree-Seeking Student

(TAC Section 4.83)

**(9) Degree-Seeking Student--A student who has filed a degree plan with an institution of higher education or is required to do so pursuant to Education Code §51.9685.**



# Dual Credit Course or Dual Enrollment Course

(TAC Section 4.83)

(10) **Dual Credit Course or Dual Enrollment Course**--A course that meets the following requirements:

(A) The course is offered pursuant to an agreement under §4.84 of this subchapter (relating to Institutional Agreements).

(B) A course for which the student may earn one or more of the following types of credit:

(i) joint high school and junior college credit under Education Code, §130.008, or

## **COURSES FOR JOINT HIGH SCHOOL AND JUNIOR COLLEGE CREDIT (TEC Section 130.008)**

(a-1) A course offered for joint high school and junior college credit under this section must be:

- (1) in the **core curriculum** of the public junior college;
- (2) **a career and technical education course;** or
- (3) **a foreign language course.**

(a-2) Subsection (a-1) **does not apply to a course offered for joint high school and junior college credit to a student as part of the early college education program established under Section 29.908 or any other early college program that assists a student in earning a certificate or an associate degree while in high school.**

# Dual Credit Course or Dual Enrollment Course

(TAC Section 4.83)

**(ii) another course offered by an institution of higher education, for which a high school student may earn semester credit hours or equivalent of semester credit hours toward satisfaction of:**

**(I) a course defined in paragraph (3) of this section that satisfies a requirement necessary to obtain an industry-recognized credential, certificate, or an associate degree;**

**(II) a foreign language requirement at an institution of higher education;**

**(III) a requirement in the core curriculum, as that term is defined by Education Code, §61.821, at an institution of higher education; or**

**(IV) a requirement in a field of study curriculum developed by the Coordinating Board under Education Code, §61.823.**

# Dual Credit Course or Dual Enrollment Course

(TAC Section 4.83)

**(C) Dual credit includes a course for which a high school student may earn credit only at an institution of higher education** (previously referred to as a dual enrollment course) if the course meets the requirements of this section.

**(D) A student may earn a single grade toward both the college course and the high school credit or may earn two separate grades where the high school grade only reflects a student's mastery of secondary content.**

**(E) Dual credit and dual enrollment are synonymous** in Title 19, Part 1 of these rules unless otherwise expressly provided by rule.

**(F) Each dual credit course must meet the requirements of this subchapter.**

# Dual Credit Agreement



## Dual Credit Agreement

A dual credit agreement or memorandum of understanding (MOU) must be approved by the governing boards of the IHE and school district or private secondary school prior to offering such courses. (TAC Section 4.84)

# Dual Credit Agreement

(TAC Section 4.84)

**(b) Elements of Institutional Agreements.** An Institutional Agreement entered into or renewed between an institution and a school district or private school, including a memorandum of understanding or articulation agreement, shall include the following elements:

- (1) Eligible Courses;**
- (2) Student Eligibility;**
- (3) Location of Class;**
- (4) Student Composition of Class;**
- (5) Faculty Selection, Supervision, and Evaluation;**

# Dual Credit Agreement

(TAC Section 4.84)

(6) Course Curriculum, Instruction, and Grading;

(7) Academic Policies and Student Support Services;

(8) Transcribing of Credit;

(9) Funding, including the sources of funding for courses offered under the program, including, at a minimum, the sources of funding for tuition, transportation, and any required fees, instructional materials, or textbooks for students participating in the program, including for students eligible to take dual credit courses at no cost to the student under the FAST program, under Texas Administrative Code, chapter 13, subchapter Q;

(10) All requirements for joint implementation of the FAST program under Education Code, §28.0095, including ensuring the accurate and timely exchange of information necessary for an eligible student to enroll at no cost in a dual credit course, for eligible public schools and students participating in the FAST program, under Texas Administrative Code, chapter 13, subchapter Q;



# Dual Credit Agreement

## (TAC Section 4.84)

(11) Defined sequences of courses that apply to academic or career and technical education program requirements at the institution or industry-recognized credentials, where applicable;

(12) Specific program goals aligned with the statewide goals developed under Education Code, §§28.009(b-1), 130A.004, and 130A.101(c)(3);

(13) Coordinated advising strategies and terminology related to dual credit and college readiness, including strategies to assist students in selecting courses that will satisfy applicable high school and college requirements for the student's intended program;

(14) Provision for the alignment of endorsements described by Education Code, §28.025(c-1), offered by the school district and dual credit courses offered under the agreement that apply toward those endorsements with postsecondary pathways and credentials at the institution and industry-recognized credentials;

(15) Identification of tools, including online resources developed by the Texas Education Agency, Coordinating Board, or the Texas Workforce Commission, to assist counselors, students, and families in selecting endorsements offered by the school district and college courses offered by the institution under the agreement;

# Dual Credit Agreement

## (TAC Section 4.84)

(16) A procedure for establishing the course credits that may be earned under the agreement, including developing a course equivalency crosswalk or other method of identifying the number of high school and college credits that may be earned for each course completed through the program;

(17) A description of the academic supports and, if applicable, other support that will be provided to students participating in the program (e.g., transportation to and from a college campus);

(18) The respective roles and responsibilities of the institution of higher education and the school district or private school in providing the program and ensuring the quality of instruction and instructional rigor of the program;

(19) A requirement that the school district and the institution consider the use of free or low-cost open educational resources in courses offered under the program; and

(20) Designation of at least one employee of the school district or private school, or the institution as responsible for providing academic advising to a student who enrolls in a dual credit course under the program before the student begins the course.

(c) Each Agreement must be posted each year on the institution of higher education's and the school district's respective internet websites.

# Dual Credit Requirements

# Eligible Courses for Dual Credit

(TAC Section 4.85)

## (a) Eligible Courses.

(1) An institution may offer any dual credit course as defined in §4.83(11) of this subchapter (relating to Definitions).

(2) A dual credit course offered by an institution must be in the approved undergraduate course inventory of the institution.

(3) An Early College High School may offer any dual credit course as defined in §4.83(11) or Texas Education Code, §28.009 and §130.008, subject to the provisions of subchapter G of this chapter (relating to Early College High Schools).

## **COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM** **(TEC Section 28.009)**

(a-4) A dual credit course offered under this section must be:

(1) in the **core curriculum** of the public institution of higher education providing college credit;

(2) **a career and technical education course;** or

(3) **a foreign language course.**

(a-5) Subsection (a-4) **does not apply to a dual credit course offered as part of the early college education program established under Section 29.908 or any other early college program that assists a student in earning a certificate or an associate degree while in high school.**

# Eligible Courses for Dual Credit

(TAC Section 4.85)

(4) An institution may not offer a remedial or developmental education course for dual credit. **This limitation does not prohibit an institution from offering a dual credit course that incorporates Non-Course-Based College Readiness content or other academic support designed to increase the likelihood of student success in the college course, including any course offered under §4.86 of this subchapter (relating to Optional Dual Credit Program: College Connect Courses).**

# Eligibility to Enroll in Dual Credit Courses

(TAC Section 4.85)

## (b) Student Eligibility.

(1) A high school student is eligible to enroll in dual credit courses if the student:

**(A) is not a degree-seeking student as defined in §4.83(10) of this subchapter (relating to Definitions);**

**(B) demonstrates that he or she is exempt under the provisions of the Texas Success Initiative as set forth in §4.54 of this chapter (relating to Exemption);**

**(C) demonstrates college readiness by achieving the minimum passing standards under the provisions of the Texas Success Initiative as set forth in §4.57 of this chapter (relating to Texas Success Initiative Assessment College Readiness Standards) on relevant section(s) of an assessment instrument approved by the Board as set forth in §4.56 of this chapter (relating to Assessment Instrument); or**

**(D) Meets the eligibility requirements for a Texas First Diploma under §21.52 of this title (relating to Eligibility for Texas First Diploma).**

# Eligibility to Enroll in Dual Credit Courses

(TAC Section 4.85)

(2) A student who is enrolled in private or non-accredited secondary schools or who is home-schooled must satisfy paragraph (b)(1) of this subsection.

(3) An institution may require a student who seeks to enroll in a dual credit course to meet all the institution's regular prerequisite requirements designated for that course (e.g., a minimum score on a specified placement test, minimum grade in a specified previous course, etc.).

(4) An institution may impose additional requirements for enrollment in specific dual credit courses that do not conflict with this subchapter.

(5) An institution is not required, under the provisions of this section, to offer dual credit courses for high school students.



# Location of Class

(TAC Section 4.85)

**An institution may teach dual credit courses on the college campus or on the high school campus.** For dual credit courses taught exclusively to high school students on the high school campus and **for dual credit courses taught via distance education, the institution shall comply with chapter 2, subchapter J of this title** (relating to Approval of Distance Education for Public Institutions).

# Composition of Class

(TAC Section 4.85)

**A dual credit course may be composed of dual credit students only or of a mixture of dual credit and college students. Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (e) of this section, exceptions for a mixed class that combines dual credit students and high school credit-only students may be allowed when the creation of a high school credit-only class is not financially viable for the high school and only under one of the following conditions:**

**(1) If the course involved is required for completion under the State Board of Education High School Program graduation requirements;**

**(2) If the high school credit-only students are College Board Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate students; or**

**(3) If the course is a career and technical education course and the high school credit-only students are eligible to earn articulated college credit.**

# Faculty Selection, Supervision, and Evaluation

(TAC Section 4.85)

**Each institution shall apply the standards for selection, supervision, and evaluation for instructors of dual credit courses as required by the institution's accreditor.**

**A high school teacher may only teach a high school course offered through a dual credit agreement if the teacher is approved by the institution offering the dual credit course.**

# Course Curriculum, Instruction, and Grading (TAC Section 4.85)

**The institution shall ensure that a dual credit course offered at a high school is at least equivalent in quality to the corresponding course offered at the main campus of the institution with respect to academic rigor, curriculum, materials, instruction, and methods of student evaluation.** These standards must be upheld regardless of the student composition of the class, location, and mode of delivery.

# Academic Policies and Student Support Services

(TAC Section 4.85)

**(1) Regular academic policies applicable to courses taught at an institution's main campus must also apply to dual credit courses.**

These policies may include the appeal process for disputed grades, drop policy, the communication of grading policy to students, when the syllabus must be distributed, etc.

**Additionally, each institution is strongly encouraged to provide maximum flexibility to high school students in dual credit courses, consistent with the institution's academic policies, especially with regard to drop policies, to encourage students to attempt rigorous courses without potential long-term adverse impacts on students' academic records.**

# Academic Policies and Student Support Services

(TAC Section 4.85)

**(2) Each student in a dual credit course must be eligible to utilize support services that are appropriate for dual credit students.** The institution is responsible for ensuring timely and efficient access to such services (e.g., academic advising and counseling), to learning materials (e.g., library resources), and to other benefits for which the student may be eligible.

**(3) A student enrolled in a dual credit course at an institution shall file a degree plan with the institution as prescribed by Texas Education Code, §51.9685.**

# Transcripting of Credit

(TAC Section 4.85)

**Each institution or high school shall immediately transcript the credit earned by a student upon a student's completion of the performance required in the course.**

# College Connect Courses



# Optional Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Program: College Connect Courses (TAC Section 4.86)

(b) Purpose. The purpose of this rule is to encourage and authorize public institutions of higher education to deliver innovatively designed **dual credit courses that integrate both college-level content in the core curriculum of the institution alongside college-readiness content and skills instruction.** These innovatively designed courses will allow students the maximum flexibility to obtain college credit and provide integrated college readiness skills to students who are on the continuum of college readiness and will benefit from exposure to college-level content.

# Optional Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Program: College Connect Courses

(TAC Section 4.86)

(c) Student eligibility. An eligible student must be enrolled in a public school district or open-enrollment charter as defined in Texas Education Code, §5.001(6), and meet the requirements of §4.85(b) of this subchapter (relating to Dual Credit Requirements). Notwithstanding §4.85(b), an institution may enroll a high school student who is not exempt or college ready under the requirements of §4.54 or §4.57 of this chapter (relating to Exemptions, Exceptions, and Waivers and College Ready Standards, respectively) in a math or communications College Connect Course offered by the institution.

# Optional Dual Credit or Dual Enrollment Program: College Connect Courses (TAC Section 4.86)

(d) Course content. The following standards apply to delivery of College Connect Courses offered under this rule:

(1) An institution may only offer College Connect Courses within the institution's core curriculum in accordance with §4.28 of this chapter (relating to Core Curriculum).

(2) An institution shall also incorporate supplemental college readiness content to support students who have not yet demonstrated college readiness, as defined in §4.57, within these courses. The supplemental college readiness content shall be related to and integrated with the subject matter of the course. An institution may deliver this supplemental instruction through a method at their discretion, including through embedded course content, supplemental coursework, or other methods.

# Questions?



# Texas Higher Education

## COORDINATING BOARD

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