State-Level Policy Landscape & Policy Developments

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AYPF Webinar:
Dual Enrollment: Latest Research and Policy Development
June 12, 2012

About ECS

- 50-state education compact established in 1965
- Nonpartisan, nonprofit
- Serves all state-level education leaders and their staffs:
  - Governors
  - Legislators
  - State board members
  - State superintendents
  - Higher education leadership

Dual Enrollment Policy Landscape

- Dual enrollment programs in all 50 states
  - 46 states: Programs addressed in statute, admin. code, or statewide postsecondary system governing manual

- States vary widely in:
  - Specificity in state policy
  - Degree to which state policy addresses key components

Four Key Policy Areas

- Access

- Funding

- Ensuring Program Quality

- Transferability of Credit

13 Key Policy Elements: Nos. 1-8

Access

1. Districts/institutions allow eligible students to participate
2. Student eligibility requirements are based on demonstration of ability to access college-level content
3. Caps on the maximum number of courses students may complete are not overly restrictive
4. Students earn both secondary and postsecondary credit for successful completion of approved postsecondary courses
5. All students and parents are annually provided with program information
6. High-quality counseling/advising is made available to students and parents before and during program participation

Finance

7. Responsibility for tuition payments does not fall to parents/students
8. Districts and postsecondary institutions are fully funded or reimbursed for participating students

13 Key Policy Elements: Nos. 9-13

Ensuring Program Quality

9. Courses meet the same level of rigor as the same course taught to traditional students at the partner postsecondary institution (i.e., syllabi, assignments, textbooks, tests, etc.)

10. Instructors meet the same expectations as instructors of similar traditional postsecondary courses, and receive appropriate support and evaluation

11. Districts and institutions publicly report on student participation and outcomes

12. Programs undergo meaningful evaluation based on student data, and are revised as needs are identified

Transferability

13. Public postsecondary institutions in the state accept dual enrollment credit as transfer credit (and *not* as elective credit for completion of courses that fulfill general core or majors/minor requirements), provided measures of quality are ensured.

Dual Enrollment Is Hot! Hot! Hot!

- To date in 2012 session:
  - 20 policy enactments in 13 states
    - Four states aren't in session in 2012

- # of policy enactments likely to increase by year's end

- This includes policy changes both:
  - Direct
  - Indirect

What's Driving This Policy Activity?

- It's the economy

- Better research and program participation and outcomes data

- Increased interest in integrating CTE

What Trends Are We Seeing?

- Greater integration of CTE

- Better alignment of policy with elements under 4 key components
  - Some states getting closer to "having all the boxes checked" for model policy

- Hemming in program costs/helping students make smarter decisions

Want to Know More?

ECS Has:

- A forthcoming policy brief on the 13 elements of comprehensive state dual enrollment policy
- A summary of recent state policy activities
- A comprehensive 50-state dual enrollment policy database

ECS Can:

- Answer your information requests on this and other issues
- Provide legislative testimony/presentations

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