

Statewide Dual Credit: Myths vs. Facts

Tennessee students have an unprecedented opportunity for education and training beyond high school through the Tennessee Promise scholarship. To ensure students are ready to take full advantage of the Tennessee Promise and succeed in postsecondary, all students should have access to rigorous and relevant early postsecondary opportunities. Research has shown that students who participate in early postsecondary courses are more likely to enroll and persist in postsecondary.

MYTH	FACT
<p>Myth: Our school currently offers Advanced Placement and Dual Enrollment; therefore, there are no additional benefits for us to participate in or offer any Statewide Dual Credit courses for our students.</p>	<p>Fact: Statewide Dual Credit helps to expand the portfolio of available options and allows students at various levels to access postsecondary courses. Statewide Dual Credit courses do not alter or replace existing local agreements between a school district and postsecondary institution(s) or early postsecondary programs such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and/or Cambridge International.</p>
<p>Myth: Taking the challenge exam is optional. It would be too risky for the students, teachers, and districts when some students are not able to pass the exam; therefore, careful screening of exam takers is necessary.</p>	<p>Fact: All students enrolled in a Statewide Dual Credit course are required to take the online challenge exam, which is used to assess mastery of the postsecondary-level learning objectives. High schools can use information from the challenge exam to inform student placement into other early postsecondary courses, as well as determine the appropriate course progression for students. It is also important to remember that these courses do not impact state and district accountability measures.</p>
<p>Myth: Student placement into Statewide Dual Credit courses should be determined by master scheduling and course offerings.</p>	<p>Fact: Prior academic performance, ability, and interests of students should be used to inform student placement decisions into Statewide Dual Credit courses.</p>
<p>Myth: All districts are required to include the challenge exam score as part of a student's overall grade for the course.</p>	<p>Fact: It is a local decision whether or not to include the challenge exam as part of student's overall grade for the course.</p>
<p>Myth: Reporting statewide dual credit challenge exam scores on the high school transcript will have a negative impact on students at the collegiate level.</p>	<p>Fact: The statewide dual credit courses are college-level classes that are a positive reflection of student achievement. The scores are listed with other test scores, such as ACT and EOC exams, and are not linked to the course itself. The score is reported as a number and pass/fail status is not indicated on the transcript.</p>
<p>Myth: Students will only benefit from Statewide Dual Credit courses if they pass the challenge exam and earn college credit.</p>	<p>Fact: Research shows that students who participate in early postsecondary courses are more likely to enroll and persist in college. Participation in early postsecondary courses, such as Statewide Dual Credit, help to develop the confidence and study skills necessary for success in postsecondary coursework.</p>