Early College Credit for High School Students: Dual Enrollment Strategies and Best Practices

Purpose of Early College Credit for High School Students

- An encouraging introduction to the benefits of postsecondary education
- A head start on accumulating credits towards a postsecondary degree or certificate
- Exposure to life as a college student

Variations on Dual Enrollment Strategies

- California K12 and college district can enter into **CCAP agreements or non-CCAP agreements**, which dictate the requirements and allowances of the Dual Enrollment partnership.

- Community college credit courses can be offered **individually, as part of a sequence, or part of a comprehensive course of study.**

- Courses may or may not **confer college and high school credit concurrently.**

- **Courses can take place** on either community college campuses or high school campuses.

- **Instructors** could be high school teachers who meet the California Community Colleges' minimum qualifications or community college faculty.

- Programs may choose to focus on **different student populations**, such as those who are historically underrepresented on college campuses or students between 16 and 21 years old who have left/are at risk of leaving high school without a diploma.

- **Entrance requirements vary for students**, with some being more selective and others offering broader access.

Foundational Practices for Dual Enrollment Programs

- Offer proactive counseling and advising

- Invest in a structured outreach and marketing plan to reach students from underrepresented backgrounds

- Use multiple methods to assess students' readiness

- Ensure continuous monitoring of student progress

- Provide opportunities that allow students to earn high school and college credit concurrently

- Outline sequenced educational pathways of linked courses

- Engage community-based organizations and partners to provide additional supports

- Eliminate the potential barrier of transportation issues

- Use pedagogical approaches that focus on engaging students in their learning

Dual Enrollment Program Components

- Student Orientation

- Parent Orientation

- Academic advisement, counseling, and educational planning

- Eligibility Criteria

- College success/preparation and career exploration courses

- Early warning systems

- Supplemental instruction or labs

References and Resources

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