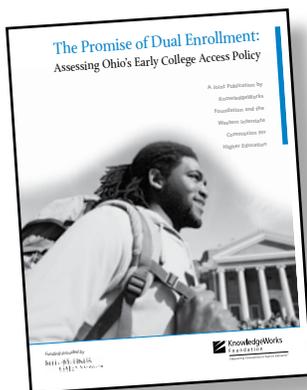


Looking At The ISSUES

July 27, 2007



Ohio's Post Secondary Option: A Major New Report

In a time when education serves as the currency of an information-based economy that is transforming the workforce needs of both new and old industries, dual enrollment offers a 21st-century approach to removing traditional education boundaries and increasing the number of Americans ready to compete in a global economy. – The Promise of Dual Enrollment

Since 1989, students in Ohio have been presented with the opportunity of taking college coursework while still in high school. Known as the Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) the intent of the original law was never clear. Was this an option for gifted students or for all? Currently, students can take college courses under PSEO if they have a high school grade point average of 3.0 or better in the subject. In addition to earning college credit, one option of the program allows for dual high school and college credit, a way for students to accelerate their learning.

A comprehensive new report is available from the KnowledgeWorks Foundation and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education. Entitled, *The Promise of Dual Enrollment: Assessing Ohio's Early College Access Policy*,¹ this report not only considers PSEO but looks at other options for gaining college credit while in high school such as Early Colleges.

An opportunity is before our state to forge a model for dual enrollment that bridges old education boundaries and increases access and preparedness for all students. PSEO is one of the few policies in place that allow students to move across the invisible walls between high school and college.... Any successful move to make full use of PSEO will require a focused effort by the state to create a more interconnected approach to PSEO by bringing together government leadership, K-12, higher education, business, and civic groups around this issue and connecting with existing reform efforts.

The Stark County Educational Service Center, school districts and all area colleges including Akron University have been forging new partnerships and working toward expanding dual credit and post-secondary options for all Stark County high school students. A video is now being created with the student responses to these new options. The first showing of the video will be on August 1, 2007 at the Stark County Administrative In-service. A future edition of *Issues* will provide information so that you can access the video.

Looking At The Week

P-16 Presented to Ohio Study Commission

On Wednesday, July 25, Dr. Adrienne O'Neill presented *Using the Stark County P-16 Experience: Toward Convergence in Northeast Ohio* to the Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration & Innovation Study Commission. A copy of Dr. O'Neills materials are available for download at http://www.edpartner.org/pdfs/comm_higher_ed_handout.pdf.



¹ A full copy of this report can be requested or downloaded from the KnowledgeWorks Foundation at: http://www.kwfdn.org/resource_library/publications/pseo_report.asp