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# Looking At The ISSUES

## Successful Region 9 Dual Credit Pilot: An Emerging Access Strategy

*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. –The Promise of Dual Enrollment<sup>1</sup>*

Across the nation, dual credit courses are emerging as a major college access strategy. Students who take college courses while in high school attend college in greater numbers, stay in college, and finish in less time than their peers.<sup>2</sup> While Ohio has offered dual credit under the Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) since 1989, less than 5% of the state's students take advantage of what has existed more as a policy than a program according to the KnowledgeWorks Foundation and Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education in a recent study.<sup>3</sup>

Using funding from Ohio HB 115, the new Region 9 (Educational Regional Service System) comprised of Stark, Columbiana and Wayne Counties launched a dual credit program this summer. High school teachers served as adjuncts and taught college courses for both high school and college credit at high school sites, resolving many of the limitations in PSEO. The process was led by the Stark County Educational Service Center and involved the University of Akron, Kent State University-Stark, Malone College, Mount Union College, Stark State College of Technology and Walsh University. Nine courses were offered.

Significantly, partners in this dual credit program, known locally as the Secondary-Post Secondary Learning Option (SPSLO), had agreed on local criteria to further promote regional college access strategies. The Stark Education Partnership was charged with conducting an evaluation and found that: *Region 9 succeeded in designing a dual credit program that was not PSEO but a very different construct. There is further evidence that districts and colleges are expanding this program beyond the HB 115 pilot and the program is becoming self-generating.*

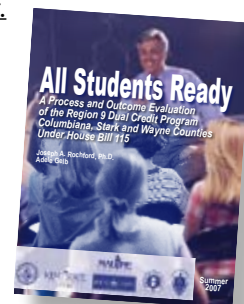
Fifty-five students participated in the pilot:

- Over one half (57%) had no prior PSEO, AP or Dual Credit experience.
- One half earned grades in the "A" range.
- Cooperating college faculty reported that course rigor was maintained.

## Take A LOOK

### Dual Credit Evaluation

Download the newly released "All Students Ready: A Process and Outcome Evaluation of the Region 9 Dual Credit Program in Columbiana, Stark and Wayne Counties" by going to <http://www.edpartner.org/pdf/Dual%20Credit%20Evaluation.pdf>



<sup>1</sup> KnowledgeWorks Foundation and the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (2007). *The Promise of Dual Enrollment: Assessing Ohio's Early College Access Policy*. Cincinnati: authors.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Education, *Principal Indicators of Student Academic Histories in Postsecondary Education 1972-2000*, (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Education, 2004).

<sup>3</sup> *The Promise of Dual Enrollment*.