

Concurrent Enrollment Guidelines

The state of Montana is developing guidelines for dual enrollment that distinguish “early college” (high school students join “regular” college class either on campus or online) from “concurrent enrollment” (high school teacher teaches college course to class of high school students only during school day).

The current position is: All students in a concurrent enrollment course should be college-ready and taking the college-level curriculum UNLESS the school district does not have the numbers for such a course AND access to an early college course nearby or online is not available. Feedback is requested from States.

Florida

State Director, Judy Bilsky

We have encountered the same situation in Florida and earlier this year passed a State Board Rule which prohibits the "mixed class" scenario. Our position is that this delivery format compromises the learning environment which is integral to the academic integrity of the course. In addition, we felt it very hard to justify having students in the same class receiving very different types of credit--even if the "dual enorllees had to do more reading and write more" as we were often told. If a high school can't "make" a DE class, we suggest on campus, options, online options, or AP.

Iowa,

State Director, Roger Utman

In Iowa, we have been clear to the school districts that they should not have students in the same classroom where some are taking it for college credit and others for high school credit only. There are several reasons for this. The first reason is a straight forward one. These are college classes and students need to meet the proficiency requirements. The next one concerns transfer. It sends the wrong message to the four year institutions about the quality of the course. It appears that the course is set up so everyone can pass it. Another reason is that parents of students who are taking the course for only high school credit then want to know why their son or daughter aren't getting college credit when they are doing the same work as everyone else. To me, that is a logical question to be asked.

We also have the same issue in Iowa that Montana has; many small high schools which are getting smaller. There is the constant request to change our stance on the rule, but so far it stays in place. We are seeing many more regional academies and career academies across the state to deal with this issue.