

# Montana Dual Enrollment Incentive Pilot Program

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Governor Steve Bullock, Lt. Gov. Angela McLean and Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian have launched the Montana Dual Enrollment Incentive Pilot Program to improve access and affordability to college credit classes for Montana high school students.

Through the Montana Dual Enrollment Incentive Pilot Program, beginning in the fall of 2014:

- any Montana high school teacher who teaches a concurrent dual enrollment class (with at least four students receiving dual credit) will receive a credit-for-credit coupon that can be used towards classes in the Montana University System, as well as Tribal and Community Colleges. For every credit hour they teach, the Montana University System will provide a coupon that covers the cost of tuition for the same number of credits at any Montana University System campus.
- teachers who earn these credit coupons can transfer them to family members and friends. Teachers can transfer these credit coupons to their students, to give them a leg-up in their college career, or show a student who might have thought he or she weren't college material that it is a viable path.

This pilot program will begin in the fall of 2014 and run through spring 2016. It is available to teachers in any public or private high school accredited by the state of Montana. The pilot program will use existing resources to cover its costs.

## What is Dual Enrollment?

Dual enrollment courses are designed to provide Montana students with the opportunity to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. These courses give students the opportunity to earn college credit at half the price of tuition at a college or university.

Dual enrollment classes not only give students a head start on earning college credit and reduce their time to degree, they also show students who may not think they are college bound that it is a path that is open for them.

Over the last year, Montana has increased the number of high school students participating in dual enrollment classes by nearly 50 percent. Currently, only 30 percent of dual enrollment classes in Montana are conducted face-to-face, the remaining are done online.

Studies Have Found Positive Outcomes for Students who participate in dual enrollment.

The Community College Research Center (CCRC) at Columbia University found that dual enrollment participation is positively related to a range of college outcomes, including:

- college enrollment

- persistence
- greater credit accumulation
- higher college GPA

CCRC found that high school students who participated in dual enrollment programs were 23 percentage points more likely to earn an associate or bachelor's degree.

Dual Enrollment may have greater benefits for groups that struggle in college. The Community College Research Center (CCRC) found dual enrollment participation was associated with greater than average gains for:

- low-income
- lower achieving
- and male students.

### **40-60 percent goal**

In his first State of the State address, Governor Bullock laid out his ambitious goal of increasing the number of Montanans with a college degree or career certificate from 40 to 60 percent within the next decade.

Through this pilot program, more Montana high school students will have the opportunity to earn college credit through in-person dual enrollment courses.