Dual Enrollment: A Strategy for Improving College Readiness and Success for All Students

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Dual Enrollment

- Allows high school students to enroll in college courses and potentially earn college credit
- May or may not be for dual credit
- Broad participation (2002-03 school year):
  - At 71 percent of public high schools, students took courses for dual credit
  - Over 800,000 high school students took a college course
- Participation appears to be increasing rapidly
- Many program models
Why the interest in and expansion of dual enrollment?

- Growing importance of postsecondary education, but problems with retention and completion, particularly for disadvantaged students
- Earning college credit in high school is positively related to “academic momentum” in college
- Presumed benefits from dual enrollment include:
  - Increased engagement and motivation of HS seniors
  - Students better understand the demands of college
  - Students enter college with credits already accumulated
  - Potential cost savings to families and education systems
  - Create connections between secondary and postsecondary institutions
Prior CCRC Research

- Analyses of dual enrollment outcomes in NYC and Florida
  - With controls for student and school characteristics
- Florida: All dual enrollment participants and subsample of those in CTE fields
- NYC College Now program: Dual enrollment participants from CTE high schools
Findings

- FL: Participation positively related to:
  - Enrolling in college, and enrolling full-time
  - Persistence in college
  - Higher GPA one year after HS graduation
  - More credits earned three years after HS graduation

- Male and low-income students benefited more from dual enrollment participation than their peers

- NYC: Participation positively related to:
  - Pursuit of a BA
  - Higher 1st semester GPA
  - Credit accrual
New Study: California Concurrent Courses

- 8 career/technical high school-college partnerships in CA
- Students are primarily minority, limited English proficient, or first gen college-going
- Longitudinal tracking of students finding that participants are more likely to enroll in college and to enroll in 4-yr colleges
- More results coming soon
For more information:

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