Rethinking High School to Improve Transitions to College for Historically Underserved Students

Rachel Bird Niebling and Anne Hyslop
April 23, 2019
Aligning High School and Postsecondary Education

https://all4ed.org/diplomapathways/
https://all4ed.org/early-college-high-schools-dual-enrollment-pell-grants-hea/
The Case for Fast Track Pathways

Better News: Nearly 2/3 of college-ready high school juniors come from low- and middle-income families.

Source: Income data and analysis provided through our partnership with ACT. ACT test score and income data represents 2013-14 public high school juniors in the 2015 high school graduating class among the 14 ACT statewide administration states. Data are based on students who self-reported family income data (missing responses are omitted).

https://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/building-a-fast-track-to-college/
What is a Fast Track Pathway?

When students demonstrate college readiness, they should have a meaningful option to enroll in college-level coursework, full-time.

**Pathway 1:**
Full-Time AP/IB or Dual Enrollment
College-ready student remains in HS and enrolls full-time in college-level coursework
Savings from state higher ed aid, augmented by a portion of per-pupil K-12 aid, supports expanded AP/IB program, including all exam fees, and covers all student tuition & fee costs for dual enrollment.

**Pathway 2:**
Early Graduation Scholarships
College-ready student graduates early and receives scholarship (i.e., a portion of per-pupil K-12 aid) to enroll in college

3.6 million HS juniors
1 in 4 college-ready
Readiness determined based on demonstrated competency on assessments in core subjects

College-ready student has “vertical choice” of where to enroll after 11th grade

[Link](https://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/building-a-fast-track-to-college/)
Early College Fast Track Pathway

Figure 9. Key Recommendations for States to Establish a Full-Time AP or Dual Enrollment Fast Track Pathway

**Pathway 1: Full-Time AP/IB or Dual Enrollment**

**Statewide AP/IB Policy for Credit Transfer.**
States should set the minimum number of classes and subjects for Fast Track AP participation and adopt a policy for all in-state, public colleges that any student receiving a “3” on the AP exam (or similar score on the IB exam) will receive college credit.

**Articulated Dual Enrollment Course Sequences, with Guaranteed Credit Transfer.**
States should create a full-time, general education course sequence for Fast Track dual enrollment, with associated credits accepted for degree requirements at all in-state, public colleges.

**Tuition and Fees.** States should:
- Ensure participation is free for students, with costs covered by existing K-12 per-pupil funds and savings from state higher education aid.
- For purposes of calculating state education aid, count dual enrollment students once.

**Remaining Funds.** Any excess state funds that remain after supporting Fast Track participation should be treated like other state aid for K-12 education, increasing per-pupil spending in the district.

**Tuition, Fees, Program Costs**

**College-Ready Efforts**

**Staffing.** Districts should offer dual enrollment taught by college faculty – either in-person or online – and should limit concurrent enrollment (courses taught by high school faculty, at high school campuses). AP courses could also be offered online to expand access.

https://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/building-a-fast-track-to-college/
Figure 10. Key Recommendations for States to Establish an Early Graduation Scholarship Fast Track Pathway

Pathway 2: Early High School Graduation Scholarships

Scholarship Size. States should provide a scholarship that:
- Is large enough to provide a meaningful incentive;
- Reflects the state’s typical per-pupil spending;
- In general, is at least two-thirds of the state share of per-pupil expenditures or $3,000, whichever is greater; and
- Where possible, is as generous as a federal Pell Grant.

Remaining Funds. State funds that do not support the scholarship should be treated like other state aid for education, increasing per-pupil spending for students that remain in the district.

College-Ready Efforts

College Enrollment. Students should enroll full-time in the academic year following early high school graduation.

Participating Institutions. Enrollment should be limited to in-state public colleges and universities.

https://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/building-a-fast-track-to-college/
High School Agenda for Higher Education Act

- PREPARE Act
- Fast Track to and Through College Act
- Go to High School, Go To College Act
Questions?

Rachel Bird Niebling
rnebling@all4ed.org

Anne Hyslop
ahyslop@all4ed.org