# **Georgia Dual Enrollment and Postsecondary Outcomes**

# A Longitudinal Analysis of Dual Enrollment Outcomes from 2008 to 2016

November 2017

Prepared by: Sam Rauschenberg Kanti Chalasani



This page intentionally left blank.

# **Executive Summary**

### Background

Dual enrollment provides opportunities for Georgia high school students to take postsecondary courses and earn concurrent credit toward both a high school diploma and a college degree. While other states have examined the postsecondary outcomes of dual enrollment students, Georgia has not done so. Over the last decade, the recession, as well as changes in laws and policies regarding dual enrollment availability and funding, have affected student participation (these changes are outlined in detail in the Dual Enrollment Background section). Most notably, in 2015, the General Assembly made significant changes to dual enrollment with the passage of Senate Bills 2 and 132, which consolidated dual enrollment funding sources, streamlined policies, and created a new high school graduation option for dual enrollees. These changes have resulted in a significant increase in participation, as well as an increased interest in dual enrollment student outcomes.

Using linked data from GA-AWARDS data system, housed at the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, this report provides trends in public school dual enrollment participation, course-taking, high school graduation, postsecondary enrollment, and degree earning between 2008 and 2016.<sup>1</sup>

## **Key Findings**

The goal of this report is to provide descriptive information on dual enrollment participants. It does not identify whether dual enrollment changes a student's likelihood of graduating from high school, going to college, or earning a credential.

### Participation

- Dual enrollment participation decreased from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012, likely in part due to the economic recession and school systems not receiving state FTE funding for dual enrollment students during this period.
- Since 2011-2012, course enrollments have increased in conjunction with the economic recovery, several legislative changes, and the inclusion of dual enrollment in the state's K-12 accountability system for the first time.
- In 2015-2016, 23,693 public school students participated in dual enrollment, an increase of 181% from four years earlier. High school enrollment increased by only 8% over that time.
- Despite changes in enrollment, between 85% and 91% of dual enrollment courses resulted in the student earning credit each year.
- While the percentage of male and female high school students was evenly split across the state, female students were more likely to participate in dual enrollment.
- White students were overrepresented in dual enrollment courses relative to the population of high school students, while black and Hispanic students were underrepresented.
- Students eligible for free/reduced price lunch were underrepresented in dual enrollment courses, but this gap has narrowed as enrollment has grown over the last four years.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Private school and homeschool participants are excluded because school enrollment and the timing of graduation cannot be verified.



### Course-Taking Patterns

- Nearly two-thirds of dual enrollment courses taken by public high school students were in the four core subject areas of Social Studies, English/Language Arts and Literature, Mathematics, and Science.
- From 2011-2012 to 2015-2016, increases in core subject courses have outpaced other subject areas in terms of number of courses taken. However, less common subject areas have seen larger proportional growth than the core subject areas.
- The five subject areas with the highest growth were Arts, Business/Management/Marketing, Physical Education/Health, Business Computer Applications, and Engineering/Design.

### High School Graduation and Courses Completed Before Graduating

- More than 90% of high school students with dual enrollment credit graduated within four years.
- From 2011-2012 to 2015-2016, the percentage of dual enrollment students eligible for free/reduced price lunch who graduated within four years increased from 83.5% to 94.8%.
- More than half of high school graduates with dual enrollment credit earned 10 or fewer credit hours. Only 4% earn more than 30 credit hours.

### Postsecondary Enrollment

- In the class of 2015, 83% of high school graduates who participated in dual enrollment were enrolled in some form of postsecondary within a year of graduating, compared to 64% of all high school graduates. This gap has widened steadily since the class of 2008.
- Between 2008 and 2015, dual enrollment participants increasingly enroll in Georgia public colleges/universities (from 48% to 57%), while the proportion who enroll in Georgia public technical colleges has decreased (18% to 11%).

#### Postsecondary Progression and Degrees

- Four years after high school graduation, 29% of dual enrollees had earned a postsecondary credential, compared to only 17% of all high school graduates. Roughly a third of dual enrollees and all high school graduates were still enrolled in postsecondary.
- After six years, nearly half of dual enrollees had earned a credential, compared to only 36% of high school graduates.
- Still, six years after graduation, more than one in four dual enrollees who graduated from high school were working in Georgia without either a postsecondary credential or being enrolled in postsecondary courses.

While the results indicate that dual enrollees are more likely to achieve postsecondary success than other high school graduates, these results do not indicate that participating in dual enrollment increases a student's likelihood of earning a postsecondary credential. Dual enrollment students must meet minimum admissions criteria in order to participate in courses, which makes them not directly comparable to other high school graduates who do not meet the criteria.

Looking forward, participation in dual enrollment increased further in 2016-2017 in the second year after the most recent legislative changes. Once data become available in GA-AWARDS, further analysis should examine whether the population of students participating in dual enrollment changes and whether the outcomes change relative to prior years. In addition, more rigorous research is needed to determine how much of these trends are caused by students participating in dual enrollment and how much are a reflection of the characteristics of dual enrollment students compared to those who do not participate.



# **Table of Contents**

Executive Summaryi
Backgroundi
Key Findingsi
Participationi
Course-Taking Patternsii
High School Graduation and Courses Completed Before Graduatingii
Postsecondary Enrollmentii
Postsecondary Progression and Degreesii
Dual Enrollment Background
Data Definitions and Methodology
Dual Enrollment Trends from 2008 to 2016
Statewide Course Enrollment and Completion Trends
Enrollment Trends by Subgroups10
Gender10
Race/Ethnicity11
Free/Reduced Price Lunch Status (Low-income Status)12
Dual Enrollment Course-Taking Patterns
High School Graduation
Number of Credit Hours Dual Enrollees Earn Before Graduation
Postsecondary Enrollment
Postsecondary Progression and Degrees
Conclusion
Appendix I: Dual Enrollment Programs Prior to 2015 Senate Bill 132
Appendix II: Dual Enrollment Courses by Subject Area



# **Dual Enrollment Background**

Dual enrollment provides opportunities for high school students to take postsecondary courses and earn concurrent credit toward a high school diploma and a college degree. Proponents of dual enrollment maintain that participation increases postsecondary enrollment and degree completion for students. Several studies in recent years have found that dual enrollment students are more likely to earn postsecondary degrees, especially low-income students and those who begin at community or technical colleges.<sup>2</sup>

Georgia high school students have participated in dual enrollment for many years, but limited research has been conducted to track participant outcomes. Over the last decade, the recession, in combination with changes to dual enrollment laws and funding mechanisms, have affected student participation in dual enrollment. This report examines dual enrollment outcomes as a whole rather than by program, but understanding how dual enrollment options have changed is important to contextualize the findings.

Until 2009, dual enrollment participants comprised a mixture of students who either paid for tuition or participated in one of several state-funded programs that either fully or partially funded tuition and fees (e.g., Accel, HOPE Grant). Each program had different eligibility requirements and funding structures, which at times created confusion for prospective students.<sup>3</sup> In addition, rules for awarding and receiving dual enrollment credit between institutions did not exist. From a funding perspective, school systems could not count a dual enrollment student as enrolled for a segment associated with the college course and in turn did not receive state FTE funding for those segments.

In spring 2009, the General Assembly added another dual enrollment option, Move On When Ready (MOWR), for high school juniors and seniors through <u>House Bill 149</u>. Participating students enrolled full-time (12 or more semester credit hours) in postsecondary institutions, and a student's state K-12 FTE funding paid for the costs. As such, school systems did not earn FTE funds for students who participated. MOWR credit hours did not count against the HOPE Scholarship credit hour eligibility.

To create more uniformity in dual enrollment options and address K-12 funding concerns, in spring 2011 the General Assembly passed <u>House Bill 186</u>. This legislation required the GaDOE, TCSG, and USG to jointly develop policies for student participation in dual enrollment. It also required high schools to award credit for approved courses and postsecondary institutions to accept credit without charging additional fees. Finally, the bill shifted the funding source from lottery to state funds, allowing school systems to count dual enrollment students as enrolled in the high school for any dual enrollment segment. This adjustment allowed schools to still earn FTE funding unless a student was enrolled full-time in a postsecondary institution through MOWR.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> For a summary of what led to HB 186: Georgia State University Law Review (2012) "Education HB 186," *Georgia State University Law Review*: 28(1), Article 7. <u>http://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/gsulr/vol28/iss1/7</u>



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> An B. P. (2013). The impact of dual enrollment on college degree attainment: Do low-SES students benefit? *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 35(1), 57–75.

Blankenberger B., Lichtenberger E., With M. A. (2017) Dual Credit, College Type, and Enhanced Degree Attainment. *Educational Researcher*, 46(5), 259-263.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Appendix I provides a more complete summary of the various dual enrollment options.

Two years later in May 2013, the GaDOE released the first College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), a comprehensive rating system on all Georgia public schools. The high school formula included a measure for the percentage of high school graduates who earned at least one high school credit in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual enrollment courses. This indicator represented the first time that participation in dual enrollment was included in the state's accountability system for high schools.

In 2014, Governor Deal created a dual enrollment task force to make recommendations on how to improve and streamline dual enrollment processes. The task force culminated in the introduction and passage of Senate Bills 2 and 132 in spring 2015.

- <u>Senate Bill 132</u>, titled the "Move on When Ready Act," consolidated all dual enrollment programs into a new Move On When Ready (MOWR) program, which:
  - Is open to all high school students enrolled in public schools, private schools, or approved home study programs,
  - Eliminates the cost to the student for tuition, fees, and books,
  - Allows part- or full-time enrollment students, and
  - Does not affect high schools' FTE funding.
- <u>Senate Bill 2</u> created a new option for dual enrollment students to earn a high school diploma through:
  - Completing high school courses and taking associated end-of-course assessments in two English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies as well as one health/physical education course (courses typically taken by the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade),
  - Meeting admissions requirements of a MOWR-eligible postsecondary institution, and
  - Enrolling in that institution and earning an associate's degree, technical diploma, or two technical certificates in one pathway.

By reducing confusion, streamlining funding, and opening opportunities for more students and courses, the two bills have reduced barriers to dual enrollment participation. These revisions went into effect during the 2015-2016 academic year, which is the final year included in this report.

In an effort to increase clarity for parents and students interested in participation, in August 2017 Governor Deal changed the name from Move On When Ready to dual enrollment.



# **Data Definitions and Methodology**

This report uses longitudinal student data from the GA-AWARDS Data System, housed at the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. GA-AWARDS links student- and teacher-level data from 2007 to 2016 from all state education agencies, the Georgia Department of Labor, the National Student Clearinghouse, the College Board (SAT/Advanced Placement), ACT, and the Georgia Independent Colleges Association (GICA). This report uses K-12, postsecondary, and labor market data from 2007-2008 to 2015-2016.

Below are the definitions and business rules used for this report.

### **Dual Enrolled Student**

A student is considered "dual enrolled" if he/she was enrolled in a Georgia public high school and meets at least one of the following criteria in the same academic term:

- Has a dual enrolled/MOWR financial aid invoice reported by the Georgia Student Finance Commission, or
- Is reported as a dual enrolled student by either a Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), University System of Georgia (USG), or Georgia Independent College Association (GICA) postsecondary institution.<sup>5</sup>

Other than confirming whether a student is enrolled in a public high school, Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) data on course enrollment and dual enrollment participation are not used in this report. Private school and homeschool participants are excluded because enrollment and timing of graduation cannot be verified with available data. Joint enrollment students who are enrolled in postsecondary courses but do not receive high school credit are excluded.

### **Dual Enrolled Course Completer**

A student is considered to have completed dual enrollment if he/she meets the definition of dual enrolled student above <u>and</u> has earned at least one credit in a dual enrollment course as reported by USG/GICA/TCSG in the school year.

### Exceptions

- Students who graduate from high school prior to the postsecondary term enrollment are not counted as dual enrollment course completers using the following rules:
  - For students who graduate from high school in the beginning of the school year (July and August) the analysis excludes postsecondary courses taken in both fall and spring terms of that academic year.
  - For students who graduate from high school between September and December of the school year, the analysis excludes postsecondary courses taken in spring term of that academic year.
- Course grades reported as "NR-Not Reported" were counted as attempted but not earned credit hours. As a result, if a student only had courses that had grades of "NR-Not Reported," he/she

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Private postsecondary institutions voluntarily provide data to GA-AWARDS through GICA. This analysis does not include course records for students in institutions that do not provide data, which are Brewton-Parker College, Emory University, Life University, Savannah College of Art and Design, Shorter University, Thomas University, and Truett McConnell University. Georgia Military College (GMC) is also not included at this time, but its historical data will be added to GA-AWARDS in December 2017.



would not be counted as a dual enrollment course completer for the purposes of this report because no credit was reported as earned.

#### **High School Graduates**

High school graduates are students that the school districts designated as graduates using the withdrawn code of "G." In addition, the students must have been enrolled in grades 11 or 12 and must have earned the diploma types below:

- For 2011 and earlier, diploma type V, B, C
- For 2012 and after, diploma type V, B, C, or G

#### High School Graduate Who Participated in Dual Enrollment

Students must meet the definitions of Dual Enrolled Course Completer and High School Graduate above to be considered a participant in dual enrollment who graduates from high school. Students who participated in dual enrollment but did not earn at least one credit hour are excluded. In addition, this calculation only includes students who graduate from high school within four years of first entering as a ninth grade student. Students who transfer to out-of-state schools, private schools, or homeschools are excluded. This definition is close, but not identical, to the high school graduation rate calculation. As such, comparisons with the published graduation rates are not feasible.

#### **Dual Enrollment Participant Earning a Postsecondary Credential**

These students are those who meet the definition of a Dual Enrolled Course Completer and earn at least one postsecondary credential between 2007 and 2016. Within Georgia, the credential can be from any USG, TCSG, or GICA institution. Outside of Georgia, the credential can be from any private or public institution as maintained in the National Student Clearinghouse (NSC).

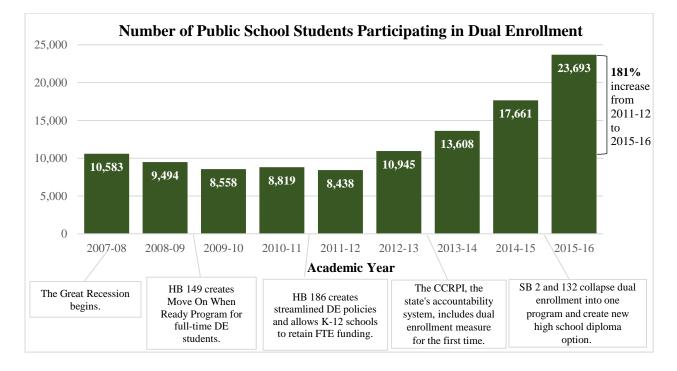


# **Dual Enrollment Trends from 2008 to 2016**

### **Statewide Course Enrollment and Completion Trends**

As outlined in the Dual Enrollment Background section, the economic recession and several key policy changes affected dual enrollment participation over the last decade. As seen in the figure below, dual enrollment participation decreased from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012 before sharply increasing for the following four years.

- From 2007-2008 to 2011-2012, both the number of students participating and the total number of courses attempted decreased (see next page), likely in part due to the economic recession, as well as school systems not receiving state FTE funding for dual enrollment students during this period.
- Course enrollments began to increase in 2011-2012 after the passage of House Bill 186 and the inclusion of dual enrollment in the GaDOE's College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) in 2013.
- In 2015-2016, 23,693 students participated in dual enrollment, an increase of 181% from four years earlier. High school enrollment increased by only 8% over that time.<sup>6</sup>
- The increase was largest from 2014-2015 to 2015-2016, which followed the passage of Senate Bills 2 and 132 that streamlined dual enrollment programs and created a new high school diploma option for dual enrollment students.

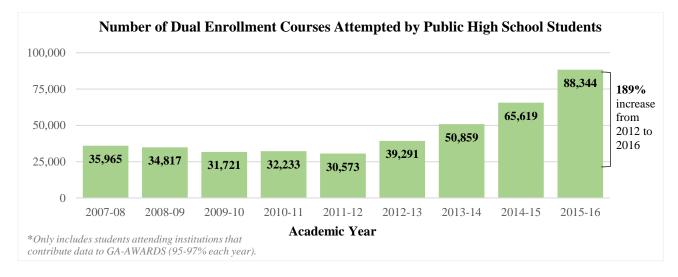


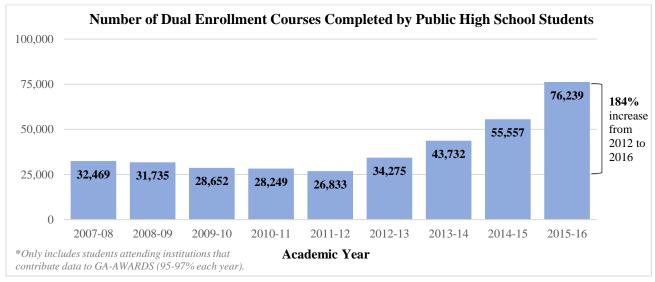
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Of these participants, 95.2% had course records in GA-AWARDS. The remaining 4.8% were present in GSFC invoicing data, meaning that they enrolled in coursework in either Georgia Military College or one of the private colleges that does not provided data to GA-AWARDS. In all years, the percentage of students with enrollment records remained between 95% and 97%. See Data Definitions and Methodology for more details.



The number of dual enrollment courses attempted and completed also increased by similar percentages as the number of students participating.

- Given the proportional increase from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016, the increased participation is mostly the result of new students participating rather than existing students taking more courses than in the past.
- In 2015-2016, 86.3% of dual enrollment courses attempted were completed, meaning that the student earned credit. This percentage is slightly higher than the prior year (84.7%).
- The completion rate has remained between 85% and 91% each year during the last decade despite the significant enrollment changes.





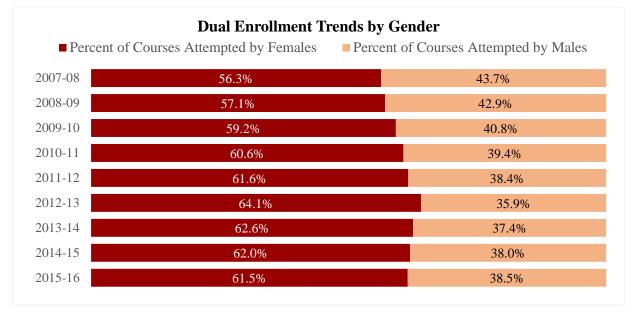


## **Enrollment Trends by Subgroups**

Over the last decade, the distribution of public school students participating in dual enrollment has shifted in terms of gender, race/ethnicity, and free/reduced lunch status. The following charts compare those trends to public high school enrollment over that time.

Gender

- While the percentage of male and female high school students was evenly split across the state, female students were more likely to participate in dual enrollment.
- During the last six years, over 60% of public school dual enrollment students were female.
- The percentage of female students decreased slightly during each of the last three years, as dual enrollment participation grew.



Public High School Enrollment Trends by Gender					
	Percent Female Students	Percent Male Students			
2007-08	49.7%	50.3%			
2008-09	49.6%	50.4%			
2009-10	49.4%	50.6%			
2010-11	49.3%	50.7%			
2011-12	49.3%	50.7%			
2012-13	49.3%	50.7%			
2013-14	49.3%	50.7%			
2014-15	49.3%	50.7%			
2015-16	49.3%	50.7%			



### Race/Ethnicity

- White students were overrepresented in dual enrollment courses relative to the overall population of high school students, while black and Hispanic students were underrepresented.
- In 2015-2016, white students made up 43% of the student population but 58% of dual enrollees. Conversely, black and Hispanic students made up 51% of all students but only 35% of dual enrollees.
- The gap between white and Hispanic students' participation narrowed slightly over the last decade, but the gap between white and black students' participation widened.

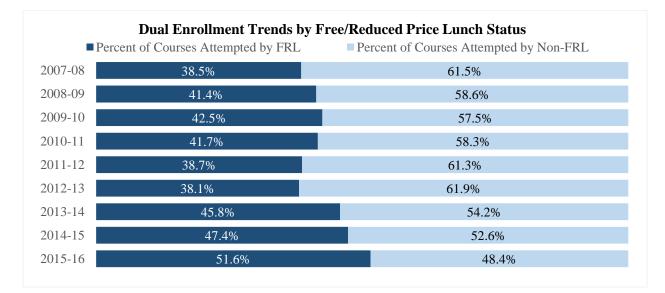
Dual Enrollment Trends by Race/Ethnicity   ■ Black ■ Hispanic ■ White ■ Asian ■ Others							
2007-08	34%	3%	59%	2%2%			
2008-09	34%	3%	59%	3%2%			
2009-10	34%	4%	56%	4%2%			
2010-11	33%	4%	56%	4%2%			
2011-12	27%	5%	61%	4%2%			
2012-13	26%	6%	61%	4%3%			
2013-14	25%	7%	61%	4% 3%			
2014-15	27%	6%	60%	4% 3%			
2015-16	28%	7%	58%	4% 3%			

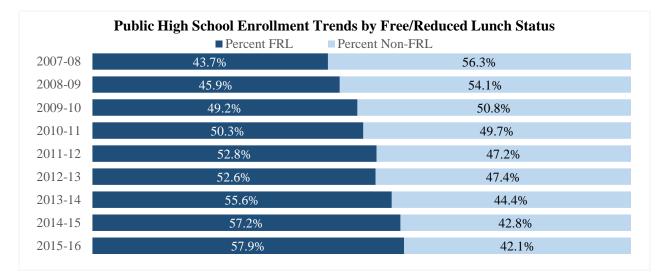
Public High School Enrollment Trends by Race/Ethnicity   Black Hispanic White Asian Others							
2007-08	40%	7%	47%	3%2%			
2008-09	40%	8%	47%	3%3%			
2009-10	39%	9%	46%	3%3%			
2010-11	39%	10%	45%	3%3%			
2011-12	39%	10%	45%	3%3%			
2012-13	38%	10%	45%	4%3%			
2013-14	38%	11%	44%	4%3%			
2014-15	38%	12%	43%	4%3%			
2015-16	38%	13%	43%	4%3%			



### *Free/Reduced Price Lunch Status (Low-income Status)*<sup>7</sup>

- Low-income students were underrepresented in dual enrollment courses, but this gap narrowed as enrollment grew over the last four years. At least part of the increase in low-income students may be the result of more schools offering schoolwide free lunch through the National School Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision rather than an actual increase in low-income student participation.
- In 2015-2016, 57.9% of high school students were eligible for free/reduced price lunch, but only 51.6% of dual enrollees were eligible.
- Since 2012-2013, the share of low-income dual enrollees increased sharply from 38.1% to 51.6%, while the statewide percentage only increased from 52.6% to 57.9%.





<sup>7</sup> During the 2013-2014 school year, the National School Lunch Program expanded its Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) to allow schools and districts that have more than 40% of students who are directly certified for free lunch to count all students as eligible for free lunch. This change is part of the reason FRL percentages have increased over the last three years. Increasing in dual enrollees who are eligible for FRL could be partially due to previously non-FRL students attending a school that became eligible for CEP.

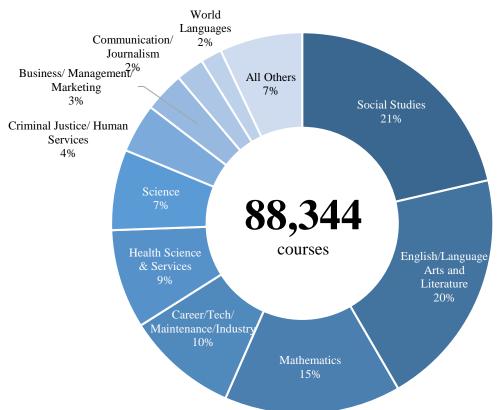


# **Dual Enrollment Course-Taking Patterns**

Students enroll in dual enrollment courses for a variety of reasons—some to get a head start on core courses and others to explore courses related to a career that interests them. In 2015-2016, a majority of courses taken fell into four core subject areas, while a considerable number of courses belonged to one of seven remaining areas.

- Nearly two-thirds of dual enrollment courses taken by public high school students were in the four core subject areas of Social Studies, English/Language Arts and Literature, Mathematics, and Science.
- One in five dual enrollment courses were in Social Studies, and another 20% were in English/Language Arts and Literature.
- 15% of courses were in Mathematics.
- Career/Tech/Maintenance/Industry courses made up 10% of courses taken.

Appendix II includes a full list of course subject enrollment in 2007-2008, 2011-2012, and 2015-2016.

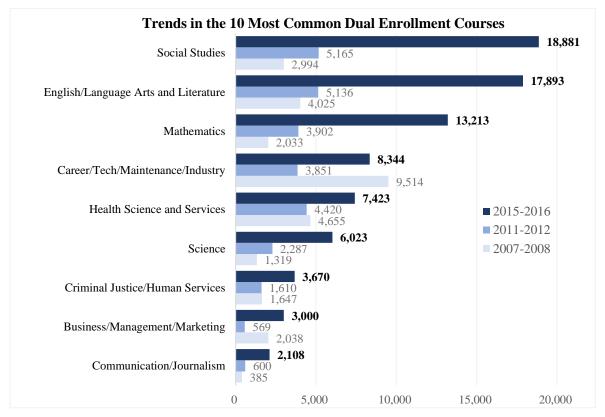


What Courses Did 2015-2016 Public School Dual Enrollment Students Take?

As the dual enrollment options changed over the last decade, the types of courses students take has also shifted. The changes have been particularly stark since 2012 after the passage of House Bill 186 in 2011 that streamlined policies and funding mechanisms. The following page includes charts of the most common subject areas and those with the largest growth.



- The increase in core subject courses outpaced other subject areas. For example, since 2011-2012, the number of Social Studies courses increased from 5,165 to 18,881 (266% increase).
- However, less common subject areas have seen larger proportional growth than the core subject areas, as seen in the table at the bottom of this page.
- While only 1,088 Arts courses were taken in 2015-2016, Arts course enrollment increased by 621% over the last four years.
- The five subject areas with the highest growth were Arts, Business/Management/Marketing, Physical Education/Health, Business Computer Applications, and Engineering/Design.
- Career/Tech/Maintenance/Industry course enrollment dropped significantly between 2007-2008 and 2011-2012, likely due to a lack of funding for dual enrollment technical college course. The courses increased from 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 but are still below 2007-2008 levels.



Subject Areas with Largest Increases in Dual Enrollment from 2012 to 2016						
Subject Area	Number of Courses	Percent Increase				
Subject Area	in 2015-2016	Since 2011-2012				
Arts	1,088	621%				
Business/Management/Marketing	3,000	427%				
Physical Education and Health	637	394%				
Business Computer Applications	260	294%				
Engineering/Design	414	280%				
Social Studies	18,881	266%				
Communication/Journalism	2,108	251%				
English/Language Arts and Literature	17,893	248%				
Mathematics	13,213	239%				
Science	6,023	163%				



# **High School Graduation**

More than 90% of students who participated in dual enrollment graduated from high school within four years.

- Since the 2012 graduating class, this percentage increased from 89.7% to 96.7% in conjunction with the significant increase in the number of dual enrollees.
- The percentage of dual enrollment students eligible for free/reduced price lunch who graduated within four years increased more sharply, from 83.5% to 94.8%.

While this pattern is evidence that dual enrollment students are likely to graduate from high school, it does not necessarily indicate that dual enrollment increases a student's chance of graduating from high school. Students must meet minimal postsecondary entrance requirements to become eligible for dual enrollment courses, which means they are already performing at a level higher than peers not eligible for dual enrollment.

In addition, the percentages below should not be compared to the GaDOE's graduation rates due to business rule differences.

Percentage of Dual Enrollment Students Graduating within Four Years (Public Schools Only)						
	Percentage of All	Percentage of FRL	Percentage of Non-			
High School	Dual Enrollment	Dual Enrollment	FRL Dual Enrollment			
Graduation	Completers	Completers	Completers			
Year	Graduating within	Graduating within	Graduating within			
	Four Years	Four Years	Four Years			
2012	89.7%	83.5%	93.9%			
2013	92.3%	87.5%	95.0%			
2014	94.2%	90.7%	96.4%			
2015	94.9%	92.1%	96.6%			
2016	96.7%	94.8%	98.1%			
Average	94.0%	90.5%	96.3%			

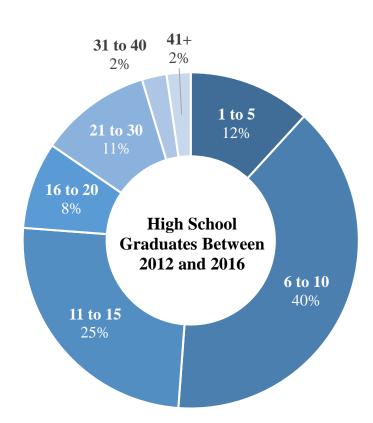


# Number of Credit Hours Dual Enrollees Earn Before Graduation

Overall, dual enrollees generally seem to take a small number of courses rather than enrolling full-time. Prior to 2015, the MOWR program was available to students who enrolled full-time, but the overall proportion of dual enrollees participating in this option was small.

Of 2012 to 2016 high school students who earned dual enrollment credit and graduated within four years:

- Forty percent earned between 6 and 10 credits, roughly equivalent to between two and four courses.
- Twelve percent took five or fewer courses.
- One in four graduates earned between 11 and 15 credits, roughly equivalent to a semester of fulltime study.
- Only 4% earned more than 30 credit hours.



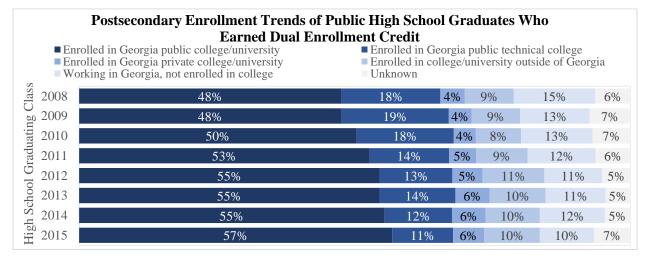
### Credits Earned by High School Graduates Who Participate in Dual Enrollment

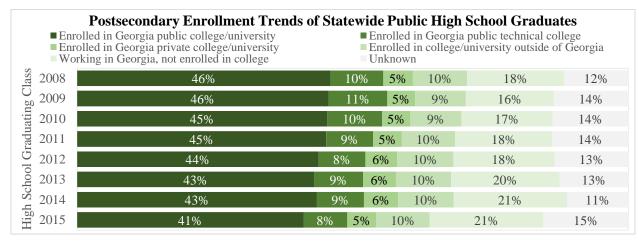


## **Postsecondary Enrollment**

A common question regarding dual enrollment is whether students who participate in it continue their postsecondary studies after graduation. As seen in the charts below, dual enrollment participants are more likely to attend college within one year of graduating compared to high school graduates across the state.

- In the class of 2015, 83% of high school graduates who participated in dual enrollment were enrolled in some form of postsecondary within a year of graduating, compared to 64% of all high school graduates. This gap has widened steadily since the class of 2008.
- Between 2008 and 2015, an increasing percentage of dual enrollment participants enrolled in Georgia public colleges/universities. While the percentage of Georgia public technical colleges enrollees decreased, actual numbers of dual enrollment students in technical colleges have still increased since 2012.
- The percentage of students enrolling in Georgia private colleges and out-of-state colleges was roughly the same between dual enrollees and all high school graduates.
- Half as many dual enrollee graduates were working but not enrolled in postsecondary compared to the state's graduates.<sup>8</sup>





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Department of Labor data only include employers that report data to the unemployment insurance system. As such, it does not include individuals who are self-employed or who work in out-of-state, contract, military, or federal government jobs.

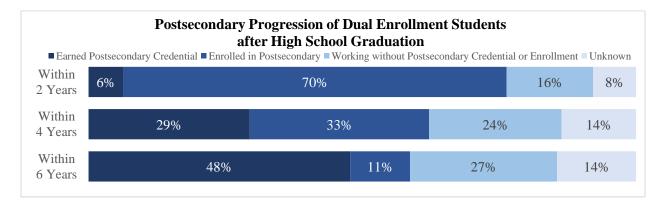


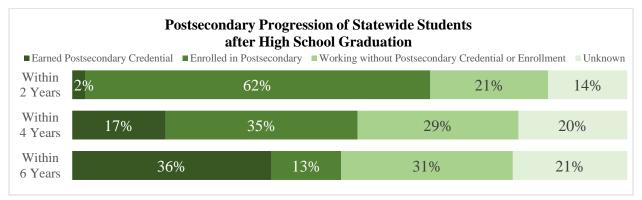
# **Postsecondary Progression and Degrees**

Dual enrollment participants also are more likely to earn a postsecondary credential with two, four, and six years compared to statewide high school graduates.<sup>9</sup>

- Within two years, 6% of dual enrollee high school graduates had earned a credential, compared to only 2% of high school graduates statewide. In addition, 70% were still enrolled in postsecondary studies, compared to 62% of all graduates.
- Four years after graduation, 29% of dual enrollees had earned a credential, compared to only 17% of all high school graduates. Roughly a third of dual enrollees and all high school graduates were still enrolled in postsecondary.
- After six years, nearly half of dual enrollees had earned a credential, compared to only 36% of high school graduates.
- Still, six years after graduation, 27% of dual enrollees who graduated from high school were working in Georgia without a postsecondary credential or being enrolled in school. This percentage is four percentage points below all high school graduates.

While dual enrollees are more likely to enroll in and complete postsecondary studies, these results do not indicate that participating in dual enrollment increases a student's likelihood of earning a postsecondary credential. As stated previously, dual enrollment students must meet minimum admissions criteria in order to participate in courses, which makes them not directly comparable to all other high school graduates.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> For credentials earned within two years, high school graduating classes between 2008 and 2014 are included. For credentials earned within four years, graduating classes between 2008 and 2012 are included. For credentials earned within six years, graduating classes between 2008 and 2010 are included.



# Conclusion

Dual enrollment provides opportunities for Georgia high school students to take postsecondary courses and earn concurrent credit toward both a high school diploma and a college degree. This report uses longitudinal data to shed light on outcomes of students who have participated in dual enrollment over the last decade. Most notably, it finds that students who participate in dual enrollment are likely to graduate from high school within four years. Those who graduate are more likely to enroll in postsecondary coursework and complete a postsecondary credential relative to other high school graduates. More rigorous research is needed to determine whether those differences are more the result of participating in dual enrollment or a reflection of the characteristics of the students who dually enroll.

Based upon GSFC invoice data, dual enrollment participation increased further in 2016-2017, the second year after the most recent legislative changes. Once matched data become available in GA-AWARDS, further analysis should examine whether the population of students participating in dual enrollment changes and whether the outcomes change relative to prior years.



# **Appendix I: Dual Enrollment Programs Prior to 2015 Senate Bill 132**

**The Accel Program**—Used lottery funds to pay for dual enrollment courses that were part of core graduation requirements (English/Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Foreign Languages). Between 2008 and 2015, credit hours counted against a student's HOPE scholarship credit hour eligibility in some years but not in others. In 2011, the funding source was moved from lottery funds to state funds.

**Move on When Ready**—Open to 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students who enrolled full-time (12 or more semester credit hours) in postsecondary institutions. The program was funded through the student's allocation of state K-12 FTE funding. MOWR credit hours did not count against the HOPE Scholarship credit hour eligibility.

**The HOPE Grant**— Provided non-need based assistance to Georgia residents seeking technical certificates or diplomas from TCSG and USG eligible postsecondary institutions. For dual enrollment, the Hope Grant Program covered most of the cost of attending and was funded with lottery funds. Between 2008 and 2015, credit hours counted against a student's HOPE scholarship credit hour eligibility in some years but not in others. After the 2015 changes, the HOPE grant still exists for postsecondary students seeking technical certificates and diplomas, but it is not a dual enrollment program.

A small subset of students also earned dual enrollment credit through **Early College**, **Gateway to College**, and **Residential Programs**.

For further details on each program's structure are available in the <u>GaDOE's 2010 Dual Enrollment</u> <u>Guidance</u>.



# **Appendix II: Dual Enrollment Courses by Subject Area**

Total Dual Enrollment Courses Attempted by Subject Area in 2008, 2012, and 2016							
					2008 to 2012		
					Percent	Percent	
Subject Areas	2007-08	2011-12	2015-16	Total	Increase	Increase	Trend
Arts	290	151	1,088	1,529	-48%	621%	
Business/Management/Marketing	2,038	569	3,000	5,607	-72%	427%	$\sim$
Physical Education and Health	321	129	637	1,087	-60%	394%	$\checkmark$
Business Computer Applications	831	66	260	1,157	-92%	294%	
Engineering/Design	375	109	414	898	-71%	280%	$\sim$
Social Studies	2,994	5,165	18,881	27,040	73%	266%	
Communication/Journalism	385	600	2,108	3,093	56%	251%	
English/Language Arts and Literature	4,025	5,136	17,893	27,054	28%	248%	
Mathematics	2,033	3,902	13,213	19,148	92%	239%	
Science	1,319	2,287	6,023	9,629	73%	163%	
World Languages	395	648	1,593	2,636	64%	146%	
Other/General	1,616	544	1,297	3,457	-66%	138%	$\searrow$
Criminal Justice/Human Services	1,647	1,610	3,670	6,927	-2%	128%	
Education	1,059	445	975	2,479	-58%	119%	$\searrow$
Career/Tech/Maintenance/Industry	9,514	3,851	8,344	21,709	-60%	117%	$\searrow$
Computer Science and Information Technology	2,308	889	1,494	4,691	-61%	68%	$\searrow$
Health Science and Services	4,655	4,420	7,423	16,498	-5%	68%	
Remedial/Support Courses	160	52	31	243	-68%	-40%	
Grand Total	35,965	30,573	88,344	154,882	146%	189%	

