

BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revision, Dual/Concurrent and Early Enrollment for High School Students

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE

Currently, Board policy (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 2*) provides that NSHE institutions may enter into agreements or partnerships with school districts, public and private high schools, and charter schools to provide dual enrollment opportunities to Nevada high school students. Dual and concurrent enrollment programs allow high school students to earn college credit while in high school that also counts towards high school graduation requirements. At this time, NSHE institutions are actively engaged in formal dual and/or concurrent enrollment programs in over 120 high schools in the state. In many cases, there are multiple institutions serving individual high schools. However, there is no requirement that institutions formally notify other NSHE institutions when they are considering developing a plan with a high school where other NSHE institutions already have established dual and/or concurrent enrollment programs.

The proposed policy was developed in consultation with the Academic Affairs Council and is the result of numerous conversations that have come out of the NDE/NSHE Dual Enrollment Task Force. The proposal requires institutions to appropriately notify other institutions when considering developing a dual and/or concurrent enrollment program where another NSHE institution may already be actively engaged in such work. This notification will serve multiple purposes in first providing an opportunity for NSHE institutions to collaborate and partner in serving a high school. This is expected to then allow for concerted conversations that may broaden the course offerings to individual high schools, particularly when a four-year and two-year institution partner to offer an array of courses that independently one institution may not be able to offer alone. Further, NSHE dual enrollment data indicates that within individual high schools across the state there is considerable room for growth in enrolling more students in dual and/or concurrent enrollment courses. The notification process will also put institutions on alert if a high school or district actively seeks out additional dual enrollment program partnerships for any reason, including broadening course offerings or seeking additional partnerships when a current partnership is insufficient to meet student demand.

In order to document where partnerships currently exist, the policy requires the Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs to maintain a list of public high schools and charter schools in the state and which institutions are currently serving those schools through formal dual and concurrent enrollment programs. This list will then allow institutions to be mutually aware of existing partnerships so that when an institution is considering a new partnership with a district or high school appropriate notification may occur, including notifying the Chancellor's Office. The policy requires the list to be established as of the current 2021-22 school year and maintained thereafter.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 2* to provide clarity around how institutions will engage in communications when an NSHE institution considers providing dual and/or concurrent enrollment opportunities where another NSHE institution is already engaged in such activities and further, indicate that NSHE institutions may partner to provide dual and/or concurrent opportunities.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?)

Given the work of the NDE/NSHE Dual Enrollment Task Force that addressed specific matters including price, faculty qualifications, and district supports, this policy recommendation is intended to support that work and assist in maintaining collegiality among the NSHE institutions.

CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST

- Access (Increase participation in post-secondary education)
- Success (Increase student success)
- Close the Achievement Gap (Close the achievement gap among underserved student populations)
- Workforce (Collaboratively address the challenges of the workforce and industry education needs of Nevada)
- Research (Co-develop solutions to the critical issues facing 21st century Nevada and raise the overall research profile)
- Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

INDICATE HOW THE PROPOSAL SUPPORTS THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

In general, strengthening policies for dual enrollment supports student access, success and closing the achievement gap. Such programs offer high school students a head start on earning college credit, fortifying the high school to college pipeline, and increasing a student’s likelihood for success when they get to college having already earned credits and gained college course experience. The proposed policy provides parameters for institutions to engage one another going forward in notification and forming partnerships that will support dual and/or concurrent enrollment programs.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION

- The proposed policy will establish rules of engagement when institutions are considering dual and/or concurrent enrollment programs where another NSHE institution is providing such programs to public high schools and charter schools in Nevada.
- The proposed policy supports a collaborative approach of working as one system to effectively serve high schools across the state.
- The proposed policy leverages the partnerships between institutions for seamless delivery beyond regional service areas.
- Promoting collaborative communication benefits the high schools and districts that desire multiple dual enrollment programs.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION

None have been brought forward.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED

Maintain the current policy that does not include a notification requirement when institutions consider partnerships with districts and high schools where other NSHE institutions are currently engaged.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR’S OFFICE

This recommendation is supported by the Chancellor’s Office.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY

- Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 2*
- Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
- Other: _____
- Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 2

Dual/Concurrent and Early Enrollment for High School Students

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 2. Dual/Concurrent and Early Enrollment for High School Students

Nevada’s adoption of the Nevada Academic Content Standards will substantially increase the rigor and quality of education in Kindergarten through 12th grade in Nevada – a benefit to the State as a whole, but particularly to Nevada’s students, higher education, and the business community. NSHE is committed to working with the secondary education community to help prepare students for post-secondary education and the workforce, including providing opportunities for earning college-level credit while in high school.

1. High school students may enroll in an NSHE college or university, subject to the approval of appropriate institution officials.
2. NSHE institutions shall work collaboratively and may enter into agreements or partnerships with school districts, public and private high schools, and charter schools to provide early and/or dual/*concurrent* enrollment opportunities, including, but not limited to “jump start” programs. [~~Agreements or partnerships may include offering programs or courses at a discounted registration fee. The registration fee must be approved by the President. Institutions must report biennially to the Board on the agreements or partnerships, including as applicable, the programs or courses offered, the number of high school students served, and the approved registration fees charged.~~] ***This Subsection does not preclude an NSHE institution from partnering with other NSHE institutions in providing dual/concurrent enrollment opportunities to school districts, local public high schools and private or charter schools. Further, this [This] Subsection does not preclude NSHE institutions from working collaboratively with school districts, local public and private high schools or charter schools to develop high school courses designed to prepare high school students for post-secondary education.***
 - a. ***The Chancellor’s Office shall maintain a list of Nevada public high schools and charter schools beginning with the 2021-22 academic year documenting which NSHE institutions are offering formal dual/concurrent enrollment programs, including “jump start” programs within each public high school and charter school in this state. This list shall be updated on an annual basis.***
 - b. ***An NSHE institution that plans to establish a dual/concurrent enrollment program at a public high school or charter school in Nevada where another NSHE institution or institutions is operating based on the list established in subsection a. must notify the President and Academic Officer of the currently engaged institution or institutions prior to developing such plans. The Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs must also be notified of such plans and receive confirmation that the currently engaged institutions have been notified.***

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