

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION  
IN RURAL COMMUNITIES WEBINAR SERIES

# Increasing College Access for Rural Students Through Dual Enrollment Innovation



# Meet our experts



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# Our education and workforce systems are broken.



**92M  
people**

More than half the U.S. labor force is not in quality jobs and faces systemic barriers to advancement.



**2x**

The Black unemployment rate has been twice the white unemployment rate for more than 50 years.



**14%**

Less than 14% of students with low wealth who attend college complete their studies and graduate.

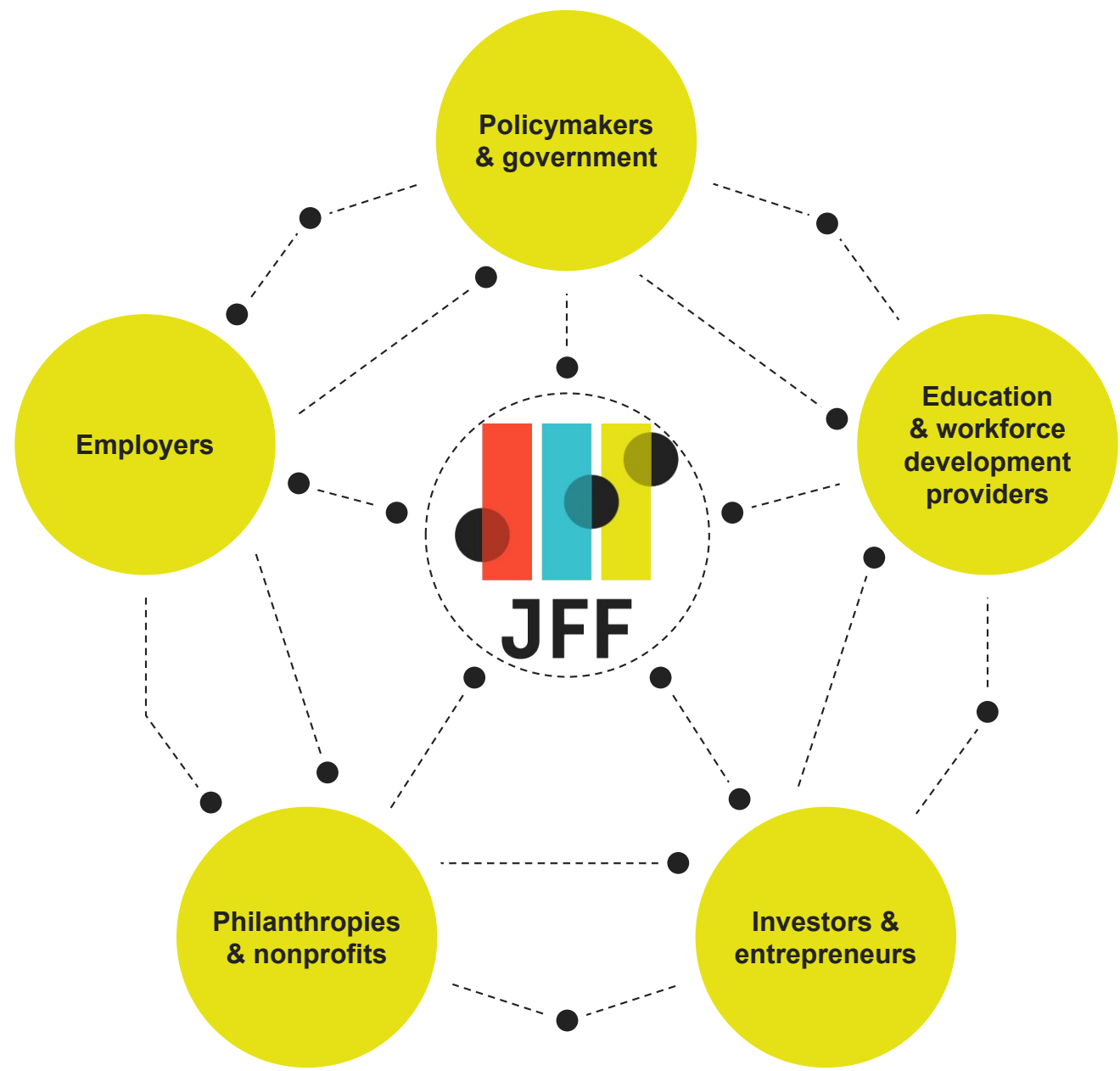
# JFF's North Star

In 10 years,  
**75 million people** facing  
systemic barriers to  
advancement **will work in**  
**quality jobs.**



OUR PARTNERS

# JFF works with:

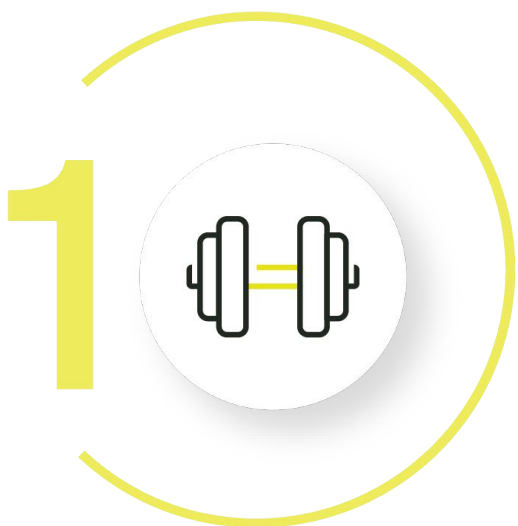


# Implementing College and Career Pathways in Rural Communities

**Strategies for Supporting Rural Economic Development  
by Connecting Education to Careers**



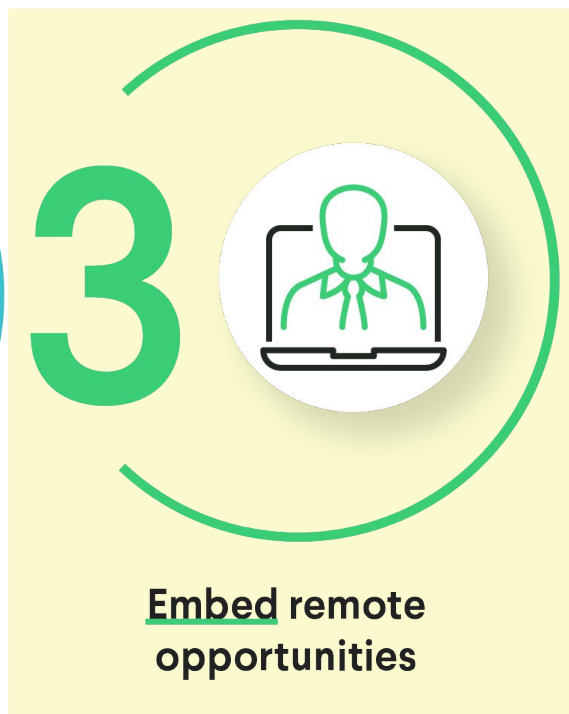
# The report is based off three pillars...



Build on local strengths and context



Prioritize inclusive economic development



Embed remote opportunities

Today we're focusing on pillar three:

- Innovation in the delivery of dual enrollment opportunities, including how to design and implement high-quality online options for students

# Agenda

- The Promise of Dual Enrollment
- Innovation in Dual Enrollment
- Actions to Support Dual Enrollment
- Closing
  - What's Next
  - Resources





# Objectives

- Develop deeper understanding of challenges to expanding dual enrollment in rural communities
- Understand promising innovations and strategies to enhance dual enrollment in rural communities
- Identify at least one action that can be applied within your specific context to enhance dual enrollment efforts



# The Promise of Dual Enrollment for Rural Students



DUAL ENROLLMENT

## **NATIONAL MOMENTUM**

### **Growing Participation**

Community college enrollments have declined every year since 2010—but the number of students under 18 has grown every year.

### **Accelerating State-Level Support**

In 2023, state legislatures in all 50 states introduced a collective total of 527 bills related to dual enrollment.

### **Strengthening Partnerships**

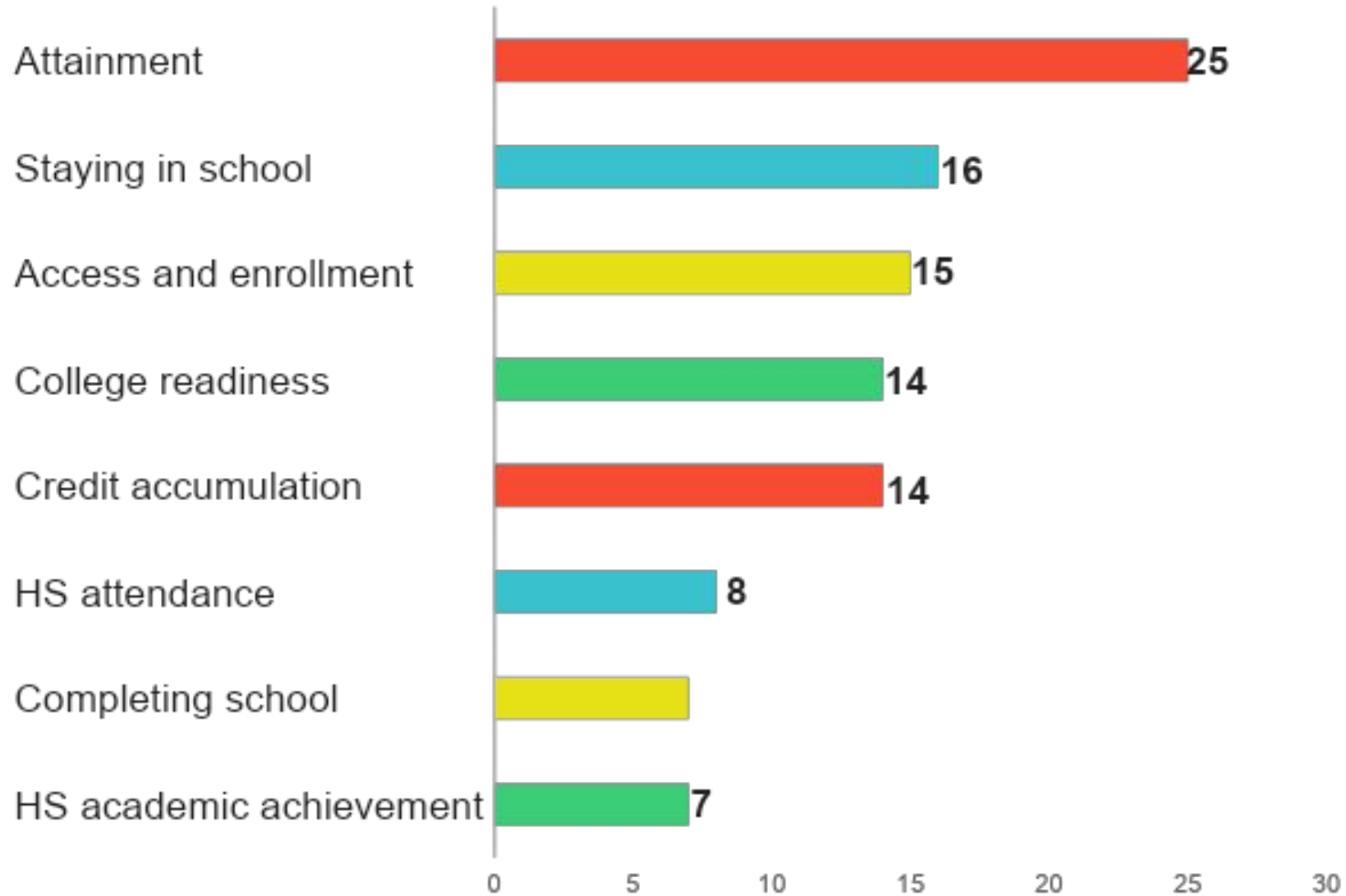
K-12 and postsecondary partners across the country are making new efforts to co-design academically rigorous dual enrollment opportunities and provide secondary-postsecondary transition supports.



Dual enrollment is a proven, evidence-based strategy to increase high school achievement and completion and to boost postsecondary enrollment and credential attainment, the use of which has grown rapidly in recent years. These opportunities can be most beneficial to students when they include core academic courses—such as a first-year English or mathematics course—as well as courses aligned to careers. Unfortunately, the opportunity to participate in dual enrollment has been limited to a small group of students, leaving too many students unable to access the benefits dual enrollment has to offer.

— **US Department of Education**

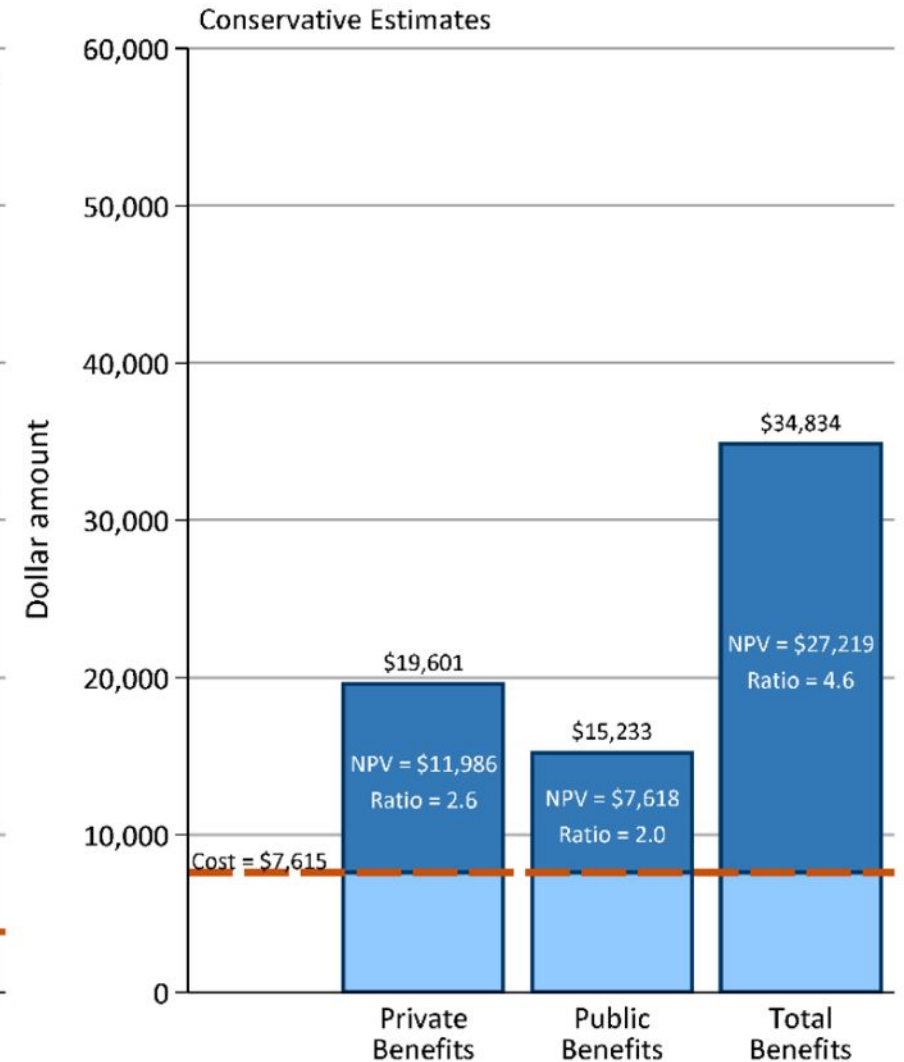
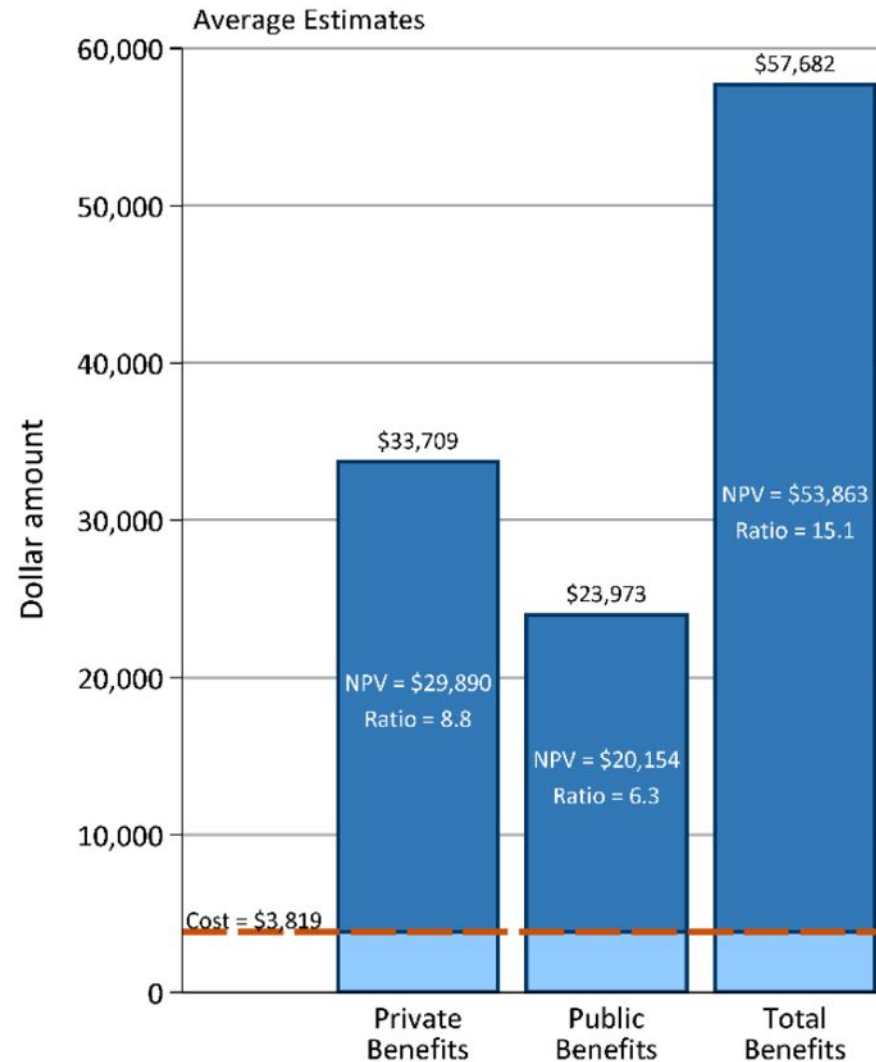
# DUAL ENROLLMENT WORKS





## DUAL ENROLLMENT

# COST BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS AND THE PUBLIC

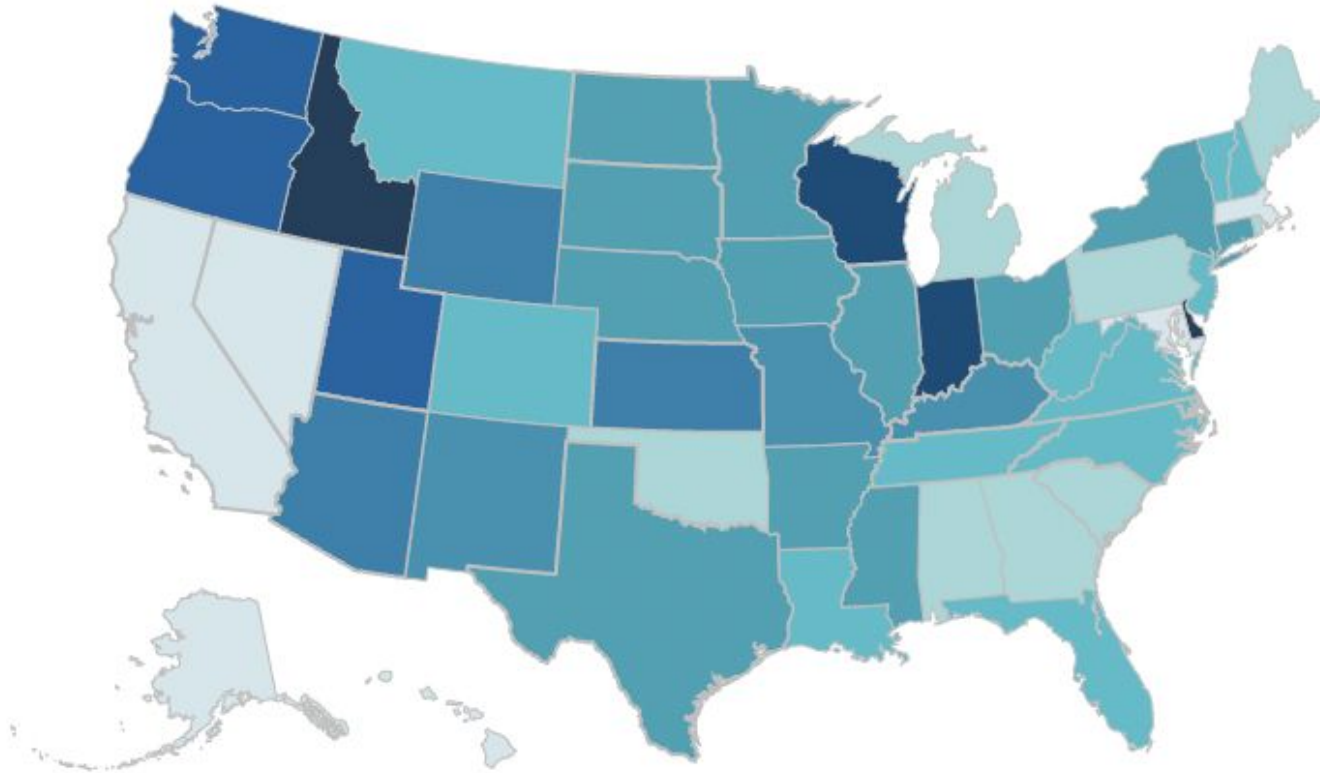


Source: [The Costs and Benefits of Early College High Schools \(2019\)](#), American Institutes for Research

# Participation Rate



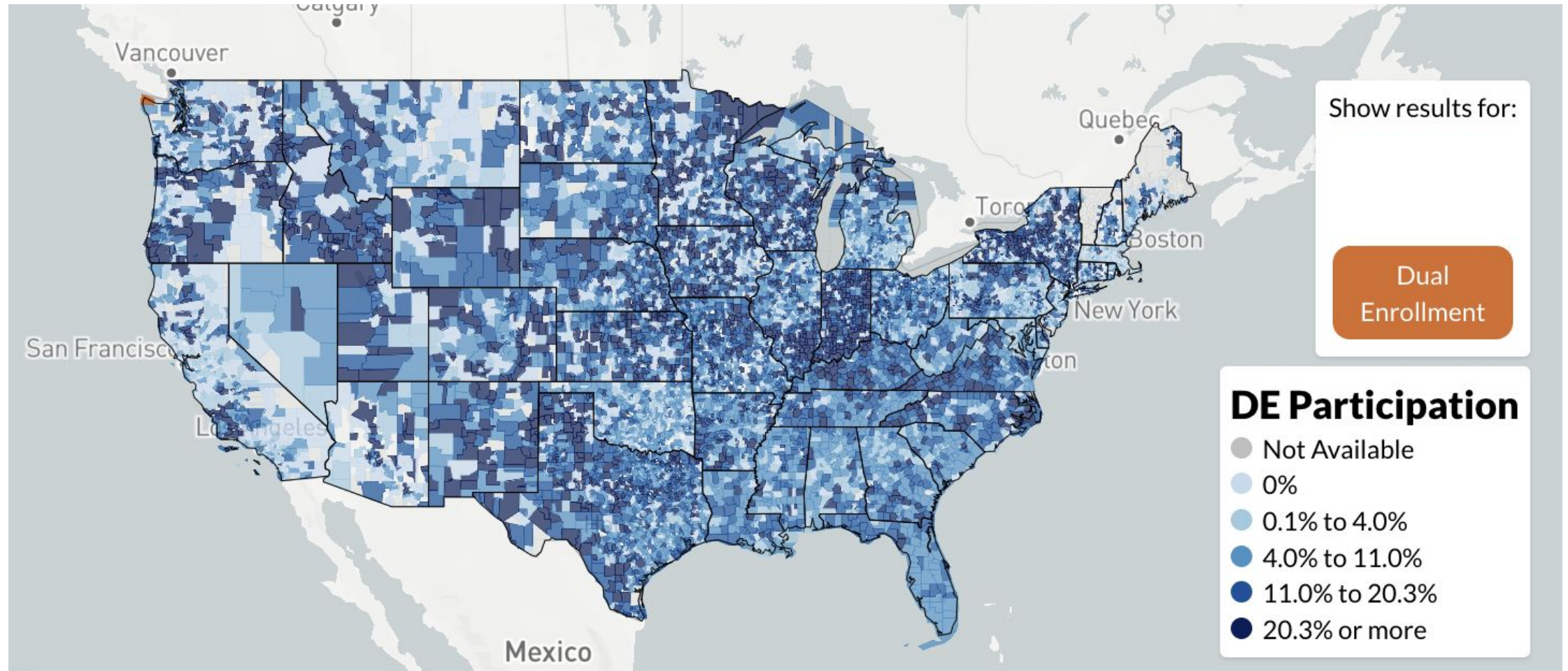
## Dual Enrollment (DE)



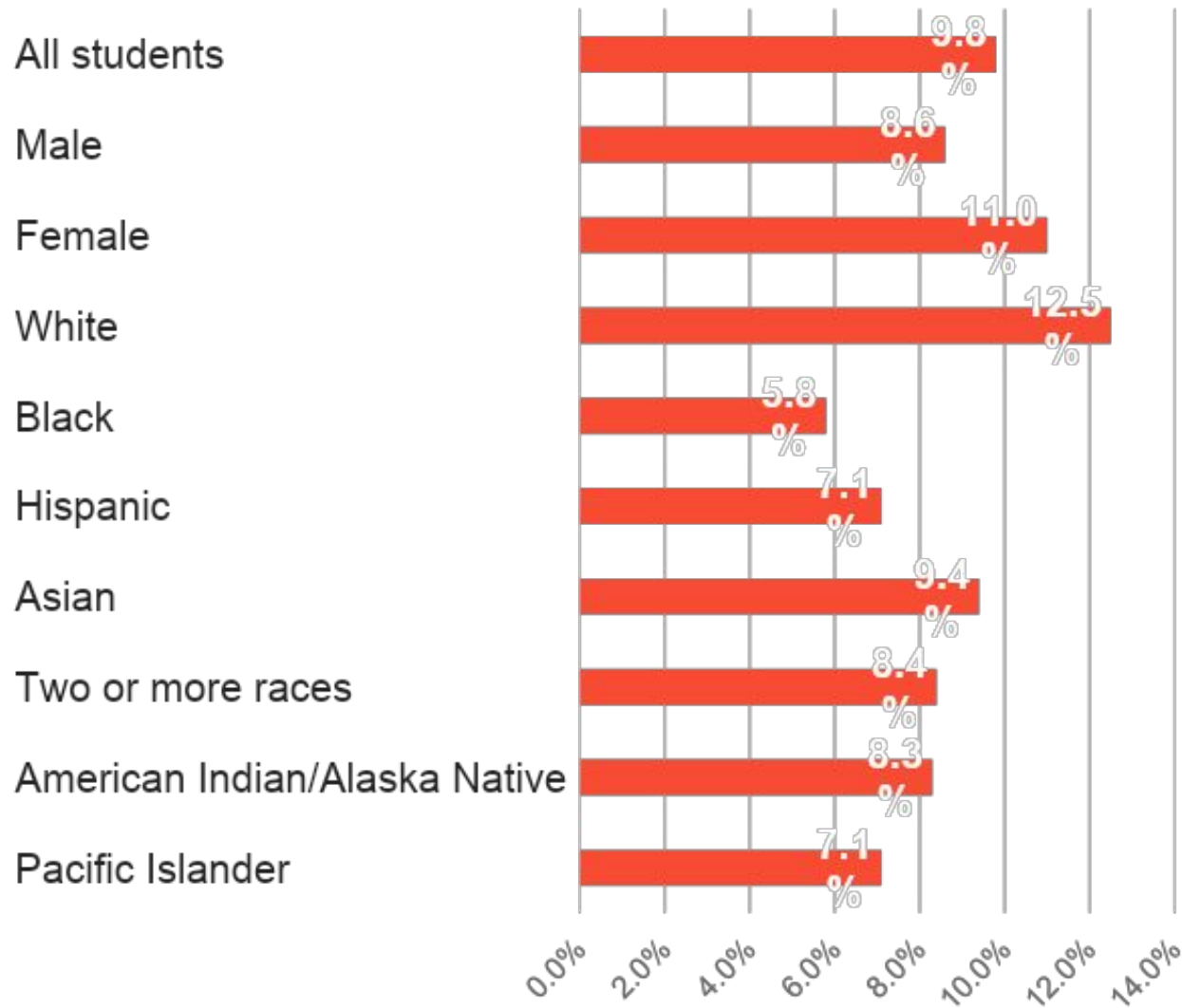
DUAL ENROLLMENT

**PARTICIPATION  
VARIES BY STATE**

# DUAL ENROLLMENT DESERTS CUT ACROSS MOST STATES



Source: [Community College Research Center](#)



## DUAL ENROLLMENT

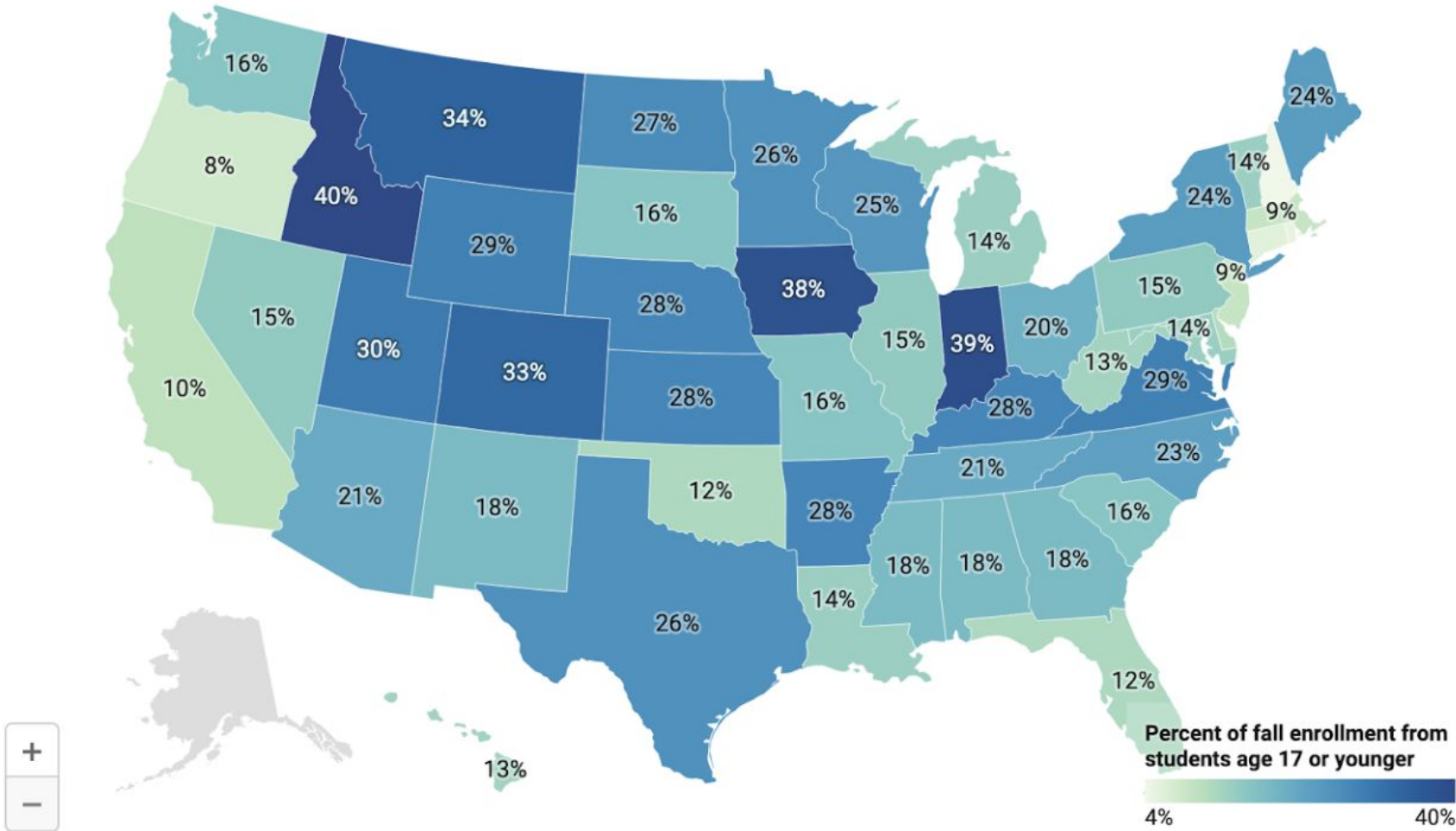
# INEQUITABLE ACCESS IS A CHALLENGE

Dual enrollment participation by gender and race/ethnicity, 2017-18



## High School Students as a Percent of Fall 2021 Community College Enrollment

**DUAL  
ENROLLMENT IS  
A COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
ENROLLMENT  
STRATEGY**



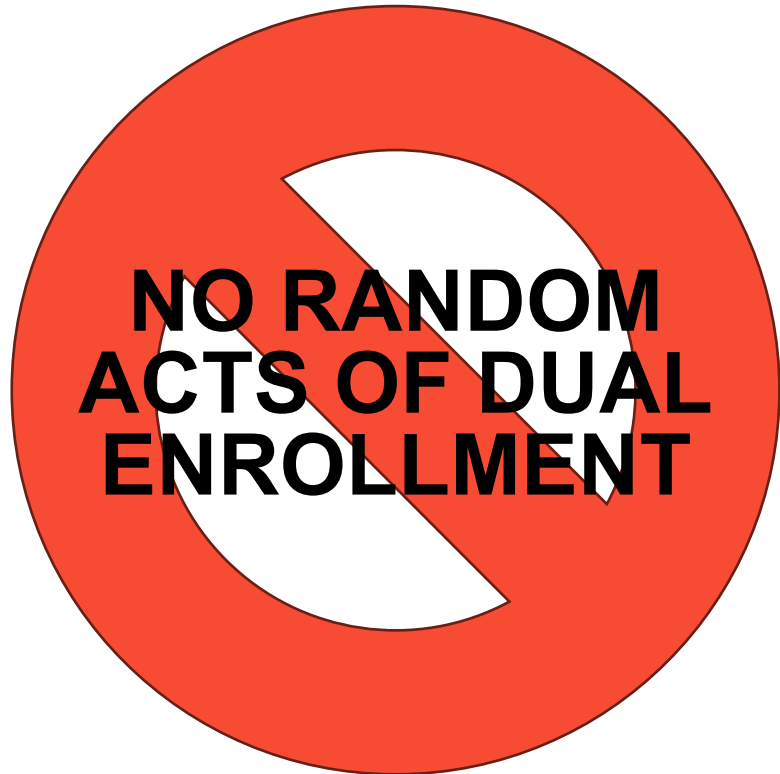
**Nationally, dual enrollment students (age 17 and younger) were 18% of fall 2021 community college enrollment.**

Created with [Datawrapper](#)

Source: [Community College Research Center](#)



# PROVIDE AVENUES FOR STRATEGIC DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSE-TAKING



## DOOR OPENER COURSES

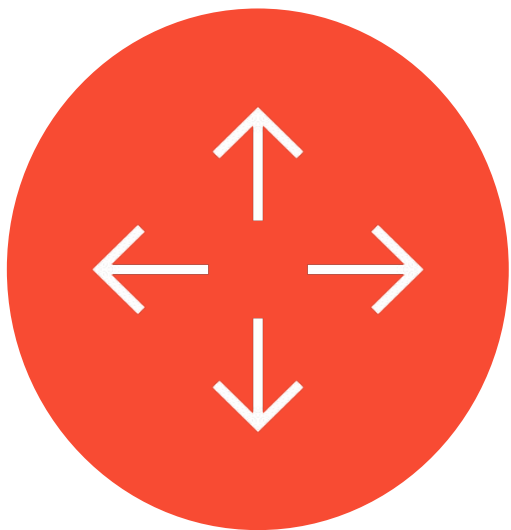
College courses provide foundational industry exposure and apply to the highest number of options for postsecondary credentials within a career pathway

## ACCELERATOR COURSES

College courses for high school students that fulfill requirements for promising credentials

# Innovation in Dual Enrollment for Rural Students

# Dual Enrollment Challenges



**Distance to partners**



**Engaging learning environments and quality instruction**



**Supporting students in accessing and navigating college courses**

CHALLENGE: DISTANCE TO PARTNERS

# Utilize Multiple Delivery Methods and Partners

- Employ multiple delivery methods
- Increase access to dual enrollment by partnering with more than one college
- Provide transportation to higher education partner



# Enhance Course Design and Delivery

- Update instructional approaches for virtual environments
- Build in opportunities to deepen connections with instructors and peers
- Integrate proven college and career readiness strategies





CHALLENGE: SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN ACCESSING AND NAVIGATING COLLEGE COURSES

# Provide targeted advising and wrap-around supports

- Support all students in accessing right-fit dual credit opportunities
- Offer resources to support course participation and engagement (e.g., technology)
- Leverage existing higher education programs:
  - Tutoring
  - Early alert systems



# Course Delivery Options

How is content delivered?



Synchronously

Where does instruction take place?



Who is delivering the course?



# Staffing Strategies

**Concurrent Enrollment:** Dual enrollment courses taught by credentialed high school teachers at the high school

## Strategies for rural communities:

- Deploy qualified instructors strategically across district high schools
- Students from multiple schools travel to another high school to take a course
- Alternative credentialing pathways for high school teachers
- Utilize employers to provide content expertise

## Examples from the field:

- Texas: PSJA ISD district-wide approach includes stipends as incentives for teachers and cost saving measures
- ~~Tennessee:~~ co-teaching and co-grading between classroom instructors and employers

# University of Massachusetts Commonwealth Collegiate Academy

Eliminates distance as a barrier for schools not located near a college campus by providing students from eligible high schools the opportunity to take UMass courses at no cost.

UMass courses taught by UMass instructors in collaboration with high school teachers

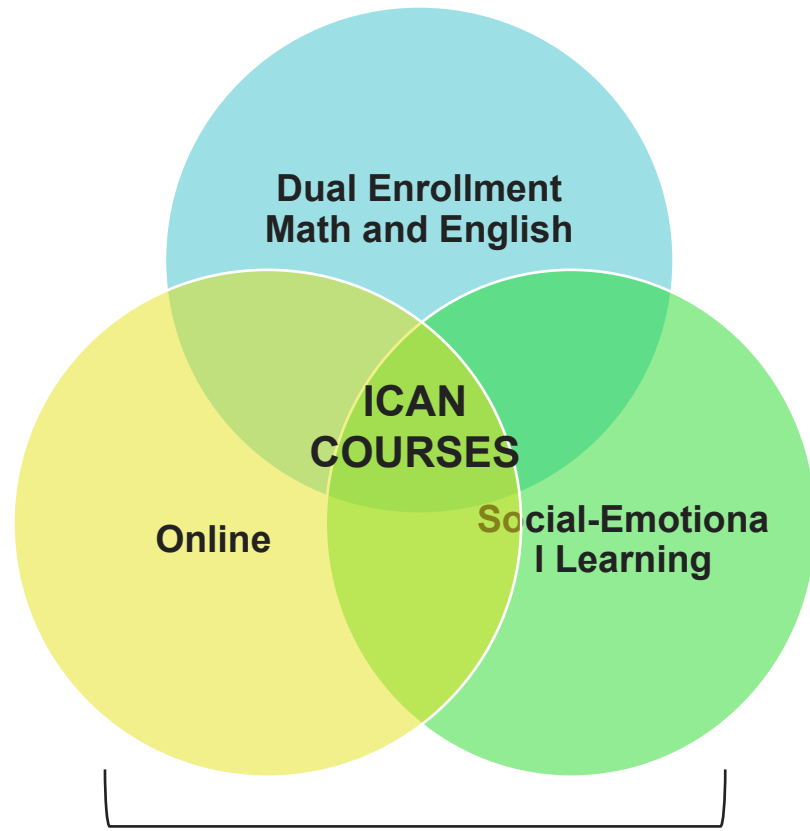
Synchronous "live" online courses held during the school day leveraging different technologies

Discussion sections and project support provided by high school staff, working collaboratively with UMass instructors



Commonwealth  
Collegiate Academy

# Increasing College Access Network (ICAN)



Secondary and postsecondary partnerships,  
instructor training, and students supports

By braiding these strategies, ICAN addresses two of our most urgent educational problems:

- 1) the deep inequities in **access to, and engagement and success in**, high-quality dual enrollment
- 2) the lack of **SEL supports** that amplify authentic learning



# ICAN Partners

## LEADS



Greater Twin Cities  
United Way



## COLLEGES



## EVALUATOR



Advancing Evidence.  
Improving Lives.

# ICAN Courses

- ICAN Courses **incorporate Social Emotional Learning (SEL)** into course instruction to improve the following skills in students:

- **Relationship Building**
- **Growth Mindset**
- **Problem-Solving**
- **Self-Management**

- Embed SEL strategies into synchronous and asynchronous English and math



# Developing a Shared Language



<b>Competency</b>	Set of attitudes, skills, and knowledge; the “CASEL 5”
<b>Objectives</b>	Specific things students will know or be able to do
<b>Strategies</b>	Targeted activity, routine, or structure that allows opportunities for development, practice, and refinement of skills

# Integrating SEL into Courses

## Overview of SEL in ICAN

		<i>ICAN Objectives</i>			
		<i>Relationships</i>	<i>Growth Mindset</i>	<i>Problem-Solving</i>	<i>Self-Management</i>
<b>ICAN Strategies</b>	<b>Team-Building</b>	X			
	<b>Emotions Check-In</b>		X		X
	<b>Challenge of the Week</b>	X	X	X	
	<b>Self-Assessment</b>		X	X	X
	<b>Calendar Look-Ahead</b>			X	X
	<b>Individual Check-Ins</b>	X		X	X

### **Contextual Considerations:**

Synchronous vs. asynchronous

Class size

Number of meetings per week

Pacing and length or use of units

Number of high school partners



# What We're Learning

- Online learning is a viable option for SEL delivery
- Increasing instructor capacity through tools and resources.
- Providing enhanced student supports to ensure equitable access to courses.
- Building strong partnerships across education systems.



# Actions to Support Dual Enrollment



# Enabling Factors

- Secondary and postsecondary partnerships prioritize data sharing, regular and clear communication, and resource sharing
- Ongoing training for instructors
- Partners apply student- and equity-centered mindsets to drive innovation and problem solving



# Supportive Policies

- Provide state resources, including funding models that make DE free to students and are mutually beneficial to secondary and postsecondary education systems
- Allow flexible seat-time
- Remove barriers that show up more prominently for rural students (e.g., access to technology, quality wifi, dedicated learning space)

# Actions

## Student Access

- ✓ Set enrollment targets for dual enrollment courses to reflect the school community
- ✓ Design targeted recruitment approaches, including translating materials and presentations into languages spoken by students and families in the community

## Student Engagement & Success

- ✓ Utilize or establish an early alert system
- ✓ Identify existing resources and new funding sources for student supports, including technology and tutoring

## Partnerships

- ✓ Strategically select dual enrollment courses that will open doors and accelerate students towards degree completion
- ✓ Establish an MOU with clear roles and responsibilities and outlines goals, timelines, data sharing, supports, and funding between the college and school district

## Course Delivery

- ✓ Identify training opportunities for instructors to enhance teaching methods, particularly for online courses
- ✓ Create efficiencies in credentialing high school teachers for concurrent enrollment



# Resources

- [Framework for the Design and Implementation of College and Career Pathways in Rural Communities](#)
- [Scaling Dual Enrollment in Rural Communities](#)
- [Increasing College Access Network \(ICAN\)](#)
- [Solving the Dual Enrollment Staffing Puzzle](#)
- Sign up for JFF's [Pathways to Prosperity Newsletter](#)



# Thank you!

Have ideas about our webinars?

Share your feedback with us [here!](#)



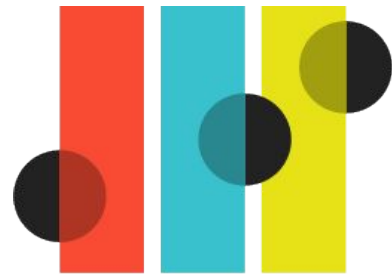


# Webinar Schedule

- May 8 @ 2pm ET Rural Leadership and Strategies in Quality Green Jobs
- May 15 @ 2pm ET Building Economic Mobility for Workers and Learners: Lessons on Apprenticeship & Work-Based Learning from Rural Communities
- May 22 @ 1pm ET Empowering Rural Immigrant Success: Exploring the RISE Network's Impact and Strategies
- May 29 @ 2pm ET Designing and Implementing Pathways in Rural Communities



**[Register here!](#)**



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