



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



### Dual Credit Expansion Project

The CSDE is utilizing \$5.5 million of ARPA funds to expand student participation in dual credit courses that are offered in partnership with Connecticut public and private institutions of higher education (IHE). The expansion will increase the number of students earning college credit while enrolled in high school and increase the number of college credits students earn prior to high school graduation. These credit-based courses can be part of traditional college pathways *or* career-oriented pathways leading to industry-recognized credentials. Dual credit courses can be dual enrollment (taken on a college campus) or concurrent enrollment courses (taken on the high school campus).

The essential activities as part of this initiative include:

- an Expansion Grant Program for public school districts to support the start-up costs for establishing new dual credit course offerings;
- increasing the number of high school teachers credentialed by IHEs to teach dual credit courses;
- a system of accreditation for dual credit programs statewide; and
- new reporting through EdSight to showcase the expanded participation in dual credit courses.

Increasing dual credit opportunities in all districts will maximize the affordability of higher education for Connecticut students. Students who successfully complete dual credit courses can leave high school with a semester or more of college credits on their transcript. Graduates who choose to matriculate to a community college program can continue their credit-based pathway at the college for no-cost through Connecticut's free community college program called [PACT](#). Students can use PACT funding to pursue credit-bearing certificate programs, and even attend part-time (6+ credits/ semester). For high school graduates who enter the workforce directly – either by choice or necessity – more of them will have had opportunities to complete career-focused dual credit courses leading to industry-recognized credentials, which are highly valued by employers. These students enter the workforce with marketable skills while simultaneously having earned college credits applicable to a future degree that may be paid using job earnings or in some cases directly by the employer.