

Five Reasons Dual Credit is a Smart Investment that Pays Off For Students, Families, and the State

1. Dual Credit Is the “Bridge” to a K-14/16 New Mexico

New Mexico’s economic well-being relies on industries that offer middle- and high-skilled jobs and pay life-sustaining wages. In turn, all of the Governor’s target industries rely on strong pipelines of well-qualified talent – **New Mexico True Talent** – and **Dual Credit** connects our graduates with the best jobs and careers in New Mexico.

With unprecedented alignment between the state’s Public Education and Higher Education systems, including a renewed commitment to advancing Career and Technical Education, New Mexico’s students can now go further faster to earn college credentials at higher rates than ever before, increasing their economic wellbeing for a lifetime.

Every New Mexico high school student can and must be a college student! Success for our students happens at many levels – earning career certifications, two-year degrees, four-year degrees and higher. Their academic outcome secures their financial success, and generates economic impact for New Mexico for the long-term.

2. Dual Credit Is an Investment that Pays for Itself

Every \$1 New Mexico invests in Higher Education for Dual Credit generates returns when graduates enter the workforce 1-2 years quicker and at higher incomes:

- ✓ \$11 for New Mexico families in increased income and reduced student loan debt.
- ✓ Up to \$3 in higher education funding, reduced need for remediation, and increased state tax contributions
- ✓ Up to \$1.17 in Lottery Scholarship Fund relief

The following chart demonstrates the impact for just 2,000 Students (10% of all Dual Credit Students) leaving with one year of college credit (30 hours):

Economic Benefit in Income, Taxes, and College Savings Per 2,000 Students	University Graduates	Community College Graduates
Family Student Loan Debt Saved	\$5,877,300	\$3,879,000
One Year Quicker Entry into the Workforce with Increased Income from College Credential	\$31,600,000	\$7,300,000
Remediation Savings	\$960,000	\$960,000
Increase in PIT Contribution	\$1,550,000	\$357,000
Increase in GRT from Additional Spending Power	\$1,250,000	\$287,000
Savings to Lottery Scholarship Fund	\$7,700,000	\$2,320,000



Additional benefits of college completion include:

- Increased good health (lower obesity and smoking risks, higher likelihood of good diet and preventative healthcare and health insurance)
- 4.9 times greater asset income
- 4.9 times lower risk of incarceration
- 3.5 times lower risk of poverty
- 2.2 times less likely to be unemployed, 74% less likely to be out of the workforce



3. Dual Credit Boosts High School and College Completion Rates for Underserved Populations

Dual credit boosts graduation rates for all students, including students of color, low-income students, and first-generation college attenders.

In School Year 2017-18, Hispanic students comprised 48% of all Dual Credit students, and the graduation rate of Hispanic students reached 73.1%, outpacing the statewide average of 73%.

4. Dual Credit Maximizes the Academic and Economic Benefits of Career and Technical Education (CTE) for Students

Career and Technical Education students graduate at higher than 90% statewide. The meaningful integration of college coursework to secure career credentials and two-year degrees increases a high school graduates' earning power by \$5,000-\$12,000. Since the majority of college students, especially Hispanic students, are also working, the additional income increases their likelihood to complete college.

5. Dual Credit Closes Workforce Gaps

Moving New Mexico forward demands that we mobilize as many New Mexicans as possible into technical and middle-skill degrees to fill the growing gaps in our workforce. The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions has identified a set of "Star Occupations," most of which require career certifications and associate degrees, including:

- Medical and Health Services Managers
- Registered Nurses (ADNs)
- General and Operations Managers
- Management Analysts
- Industrial Machinery Mechanics
- Computer Systems Analysts
- Medical and Clinical Lab Technicians
- Computer User Support Specialists
- Office Supervisors and Administrative Workers
- Licensed Practical and Vocational Nurses
- Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics



New Mexico's Dual Credit Program has delivered on its promise to increase high school graduation and college enrollment rates for students. Facilitating strong, connected alignment to post-secondary completion points is the logical, and achievable, next step.

Dual Credit courses provide the literal "bridge" to the PK-14/PK-16/PK-20-Workforce system desperately needed to propel students, families, communities, and the state forward.

New Mexico has the right tools and the will to spark transformation in its educational system.

**But, to make it happen,
WE MUST
fully fund the higher
education partners who
make this progress possible!**