

Dual credit programs provide high school students with the opportunity to take college-level courses with the intent to earn both high school and college credits.

### DUAL CREDIT OPTIONS



#### RUNNING START

- Available to students in grades 9-12
- Individual high school students take college-level courses **at a University of Hawai'i campus** along with college students



#### EARLY COLLEGE

- Available to students in grades 9-12
- Students take college-level courses **at their high school campus** along with other high school students



#### JUMP START

- Available to 12th grade students at select high schools who take college courses towards a career/technical education program at select University of Hawai'i campuses

### TIMELINE

**2001**

Running Start, a partnership program between the Hawai'i State Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i, began offering dual credit courses to high school students.

**2011**

Jump Start began in four high schools on O'ahu.

**2012**

Early College became the newest dual credit program in Hawai'i. Currently more than 30 high schools and charter schools offer Early College classes on their campus.

**2014**

The Early College High School Program grant began to assist 12 selected high schools to implement the Early College High School Program.



#### ISAAC SERRANO, Waipahu High School

Isaac Serrano is a sophomore at Waipahu High School who takes part in the school's Olympian program which helps him stay on track to receive his associate's degree by the time he graduates from high school. If he maintains his current pace, he will earn sixty-two college credits, and his AA, by the end of his senior year. Describing his experience in college courses he states, ***"It was enjoyable. People say in college the teachers are strict but they actually do (care) and it's pretty cool being able to see the college experience."*** In addition to the academic benefits, Isaac's mother, Sabrina Phelps, also fully understands the financial benefits of these programs: ***"It will be easier for me financially in the future with (his) college. We are all in college debt and I know personally how it can just run you into a debt hole. I don't want him to start life in that heavy debt."***

### IMPACT OF DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS

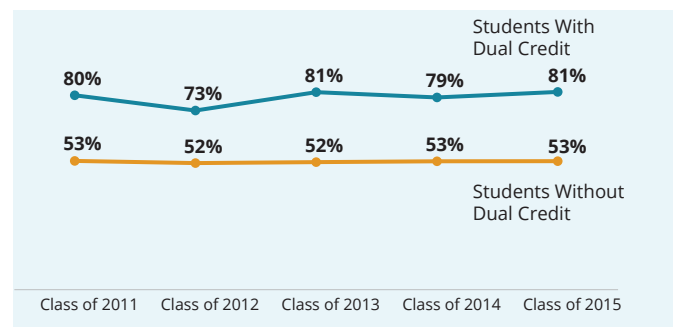
National data suggest that high school students with dual credits demonstrate the following characteristics:

- More likely to meet college-readiness benchmarks
- More likely to enter college, and enter shortly after high school graduation
- Higher persistence rate into second year of college
- Higher four- and six-year college completion rates
- Shorter average time to bachelor's degree completion for those completing in six years or less.

In Hawai'i, dual credit students also demonstrate similar characteristics:

- Higher college enrollment rates
- More likely to enroll in college in the fall term immediately following high school graduation
- More likely to enroll at a 4-year institution
- Higher persistence rate into second year of college

Hawai'i High School Graduates with Dual Credits Enroll in College at Much Higher Rates

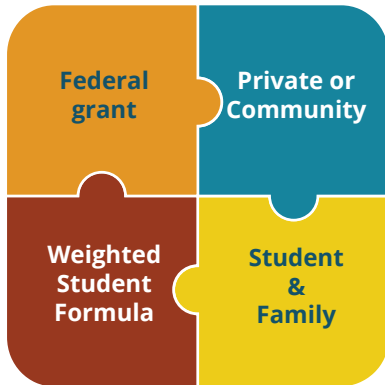


More Hawai'i High School Graduates Earn Dual Credit Each Year

Class of	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Number of Graduates with Dual Credits	604	672	728	880	1,058
Percentage of Graduates with Dual Credits	5%	6%	6%	8%	10%

# FUNDING

## HAWAI'I'S DUAL CREDIT FUNDING SOURCES



- Hawai'i is one of nine states in the country where the main, consistent source of tuition and fees for dual credit opportunities is students and families.
- Currently, most Running Start scholarships and Early College programs are funded by federal grants and private sources; this has allowed many students to successfully complete college courses free of charge.
- However, not all dual credit students or schools in Hawai'i have access to these types of funds, and nearly all funding will end in the next 1-2 years.

**JAMES CABRALDA**, Leilehua High School Teacher

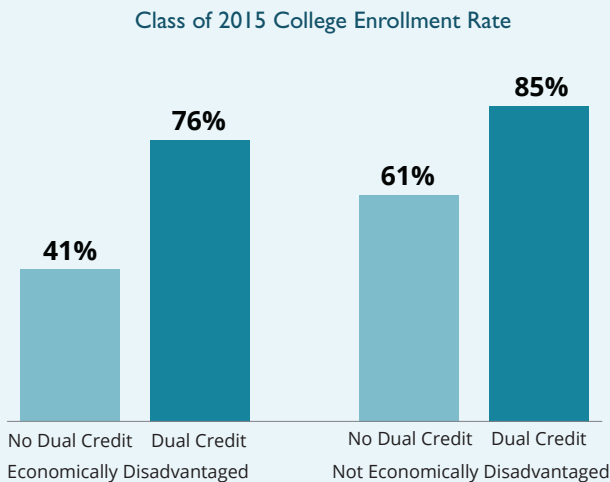
James Cabralda explains, *“Early College is an eye opening experience, because parents really start buckling down and start saying ‘How are we going to pay for our child’s education?’ It’s a hand in hand kind of thing—they (parents) start figuring out how they will pay for college, and I begin asking my students ‘how are you planning to pay for college?’”* Since 2013, the number of Early College participants has grown ten-fold from nine to ninety students at Leilehua High School. Mr. Cabralda hopes to continue growing the program throughout his high school to offer more opportunities to his students.



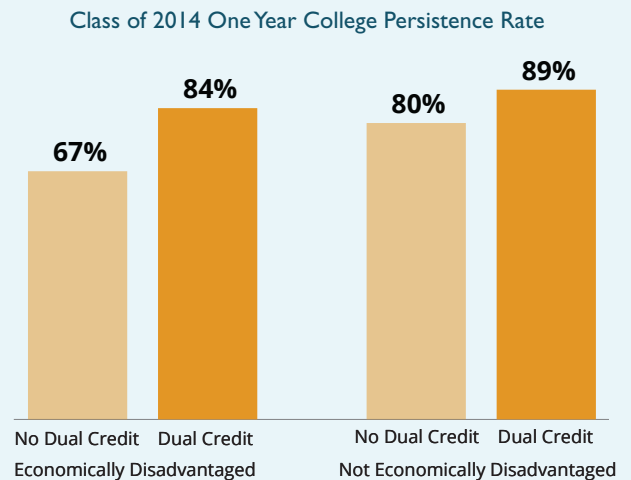
## CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Early results demonstrate that Hawai'i's dual credit participants, particularly economically disadvantaged students, enroll and persist in college at higher rates.

Economically Disadvantaged Graduates with Dual Credits Go to College at Higher Rates



Economically Disadvantaged Graduates with Dual Credits Remain in College at Higher Rates



# SPOTLIGHT

## EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS

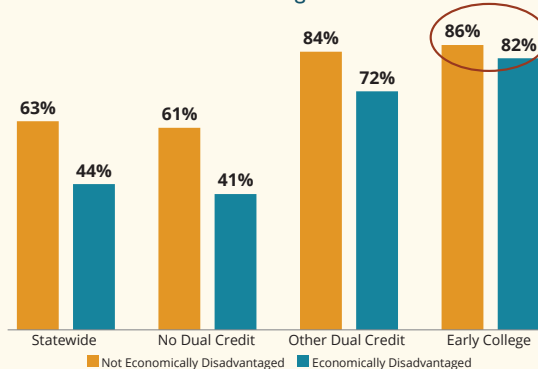
The national Early College High School model provides students who are underrepresented in higher education (e.g. economically disadvantaged, first generation) with the ability to earn high school and college credits simultaneously by taking college courses on their high school campus.

Around 2012, a few Hawai'i high schools began to offer college courses on their campuses to provide dual credit opportunities for students who faced financial, timing and transportation difficulties getting to a college campus. In 2013, and then again in 2016, Waipahu High School received significant funding from the McNerny Foundation to partner with Leeward Community College and UH West O'ahu to expand their early college offerings. In 2014, Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, funded by the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation and GEAR UP Hawai'i, launched the Early College High School Program by funding Early College courses for three years in 12 high schools across the state. These schools recruited underrepresented students, who did not necessarily consider attending college, for program participation—with the goal of students earning six or more college credits by their high school graduation. Both organizations are investing more than \$1.3 million into the initiative, and some of the schools have also received funds from other sources to support their programs. In Years 1 and 2 of the program, 74 Early College courses were offered, serving more than 970 students. Since then, at least 12-15 additional high schools have begun to offer Early College courses through various funding sources as well.

Data from Class of 2015 high school graduates show promising results from these Early College efforts in students' college enrollment rates, especially in narrowing the gap between economically and non-economically disadvantaged students.

### Early College Program Narrows the College Gap for Economically Disadvantaged Graduates

Class of 2015 College Enrollment Rate



**LEILANI CHELLIAH**, Kaimukī High School

Leilani, the daughter of immigrants who also holds a part-time job, will be the first in her family to earn college credits in America. She has already accumulated eighteen college credits helping her reach her goal of becoming a pharmacist. Leilani was the first freshman at Kaimukī High School to take an Early College course: *“I didn’t know what a college class was like and I was scared to try new things.”* However, with the support of her AVID teacher, classmates, and counselors at Kapi’olani Community College, she earned an A in that course and is on track to graduate with thirty college credits. She describes her experience as *“amazing because it shows I can do more and it’s given me more confidence to push past what I thought was my potential, and it also gave me skills that I can use in the future.”*



**BRANDY ALLEN**, Waiākea High School Parent

Brandy takes no job more seriously than being a parent. She wants what is best for her children so enrolling her daughter in Early College courses was an easy decision: *“It’s a once in a lifetime chance of her getting a degree. This is the best program; it’s a blessing.”* She has seen her daughter grow from being nervous about the courses to being confident: *“This is going to help her when she enrolls in college. She has grown so much. She’s more focused and takes more time with assignments. She takes more initiative; she’s become much more mature.”* She also appreciates the savings: *“(We) saved time and money. I know money is important for everyone and this was free, and they paid for books.”*

# DUAL CREDIT BENEFITS

Nationally, dual credit opportunities generate a multitude of potential benefits for students, institutions, and the state.

## STUDENTS

Benefits for students include:

- college-level academic preparedness
- exposure to college
- shorter time to degree
- reduced cost of degree
- increased access to courses not available at the high schools

## INSTITUTIONS

Benefits for higher education include:

- targeted student recruitment opportunities
- greater rates of college persistence and completion

Benefits for K-12 education include:

- increased high school graduation rates
- more high school students likely to be college ready

## STATE

Benefits for the state include:

- higher incomes resulting in higher tax revenues
- highly skilled workforce to maintain economic competitiveness
- fewer demands on social services
- improved health
- increased civic engagement

Christian aspires to earn a degree in medicine which will make him the first person in his family to receive an advanced degree. He also aspires to graduate from high school with at least forty college credits: ***“I started high school and didn’t know what to do; I realized I had to change and that’s when I started doing Early College and now I’m on my way to becoming valedictorian.”*** He admits that Early College is much more than just learning content. *“It taught me time management, how to speak up, and to care about what people say back. It taught me things that can help me in the future.”* Before Early College, he did not want to attend college because it seemed out of reach. Now, with less of a burden of cost, he doesn’t *“have to worry about getting into college”* and can instead focus on what it will take to finish his degree.



**CHRISTIAN ILDEFONSO**  
Farrington High School Junior

Windward Community College (WCC) is committed to dual credit programs because it is not only a national best practice, but it also has a strong local impact. As dual credit programs have been implemented, WCC has been able to focus on the strengths of local high schools, to grow community partnerships, and to promote student development and success that benefit the entire community. As Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Ardis Eschenberg explains, ***“We have seen impacts at the individual level, where successful course completion is high, and at the macro level, where high school college going rates have improved. Most importantly, WCC has increased college access and success in the community for not only individual students but also for large peer networks and their families.”***



**ARDIS ESCHENBERG**  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Windward Community College

At first glance, Sean seems to be the typical teenager. What isn’t so typical, though, is that he plans to graduate with forty-two college credits. Though he admits to the challenges he has faced being part of Early College, he has used available resources to push himself further than he thought possible all because *“One of my main goals in life is to get into college; I want to be a structural engineer.”* He realizes the advantages he will have by completing college coursework before graduating high school: ***“It puts me a step ahead of other people. People are going to be fighting for scholarships and for jobs and this program puts me a step above so I can be the one to get that scholarship or I can be the one to get that job first.”***



**SEAN ICARI**  
Waiākea High School Junior

Citations for this brief are available at our website: <http://www.p20hawaii.org/resources/dual-credit-issue-brief/>