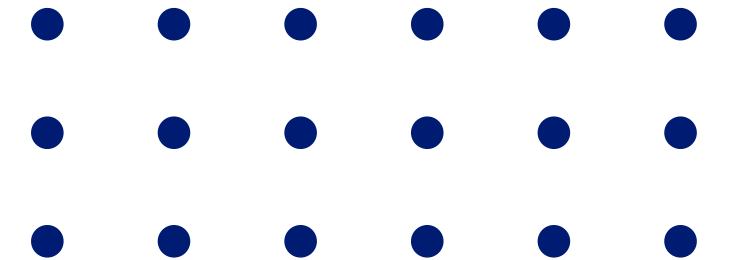


**Let's Make Dual  
Credit Work  
SMARTER**  
**For ALL Texas  
Students!**



“The biggest structural barrier to increasing college completion rates and career success in the United States is the enduring and seemingly intractable disconnect between high school, higher education, and our workforce systems” (JFF, 2021).



# Let's Make Dual Credit Work SMARTER For ALL Texas Students!

Technical Support 10.16.2024

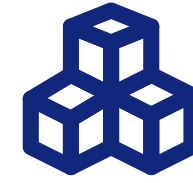




# FACT Education

FACT Education (Foundation for Advancement of Career & Technical Education) is an organization dedicated to advancing career and technical education pathways across North Central Texas. Focused on creating seamless transitions from education to the workforce, FACT Education works collaboratively with schools, industry partners, and community organizations to ensure that students have access to high-quality career training and credentials. Through its leadership in the North Central Texas Regional Pathways initiative, FACT Education helps to bridge the gap between education and employment, providing students with the skills and opportunities needed to thrive in today's dynamic workforce.

# Webinar Agenda



## Dual Credit Partnerships

what you may not know and all the things you need to know!



## SMART Alignment

maximize student opportunities & CCMR in accountability



## SMART Timing

Help students find the time for an associate degree = BIG CCMR Outcome Bonus



## Texas Tri-Agency Initiative

What is it? How can your district benefit from future opportunities?



# Dual Credit Partnerships

**FAQ: Do we HAVE to partner with the community college for our education region?**

TAC 74.25 states that a school district may adopt a policy that allows a student to be awarded credit toward high school graduation for completing a course provided by an institution of higher education that is accredited by one of the following regional accrediting associations:

- (1) Southern Association of Colleges and Schools;
- (2) Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools;
- (3) New England Association of Schools and Colleges;
- (4) North Central Association of Colleges and Schools;
- (5) Western Association of Schools and Colleges; or
- (6) Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges.

**Texas School Districts are allowed to partner with ANY IHE that is accredited by one of the regional accrediting associations listed above, regardless of the location!**

**Many Texas School Districts partner with more than ONE IHE.**



# DUAL CREDIT PARTNERSHIPS CONSIDERATIONS

## **Can we limit the number of dual credit courses our students enroll in?**

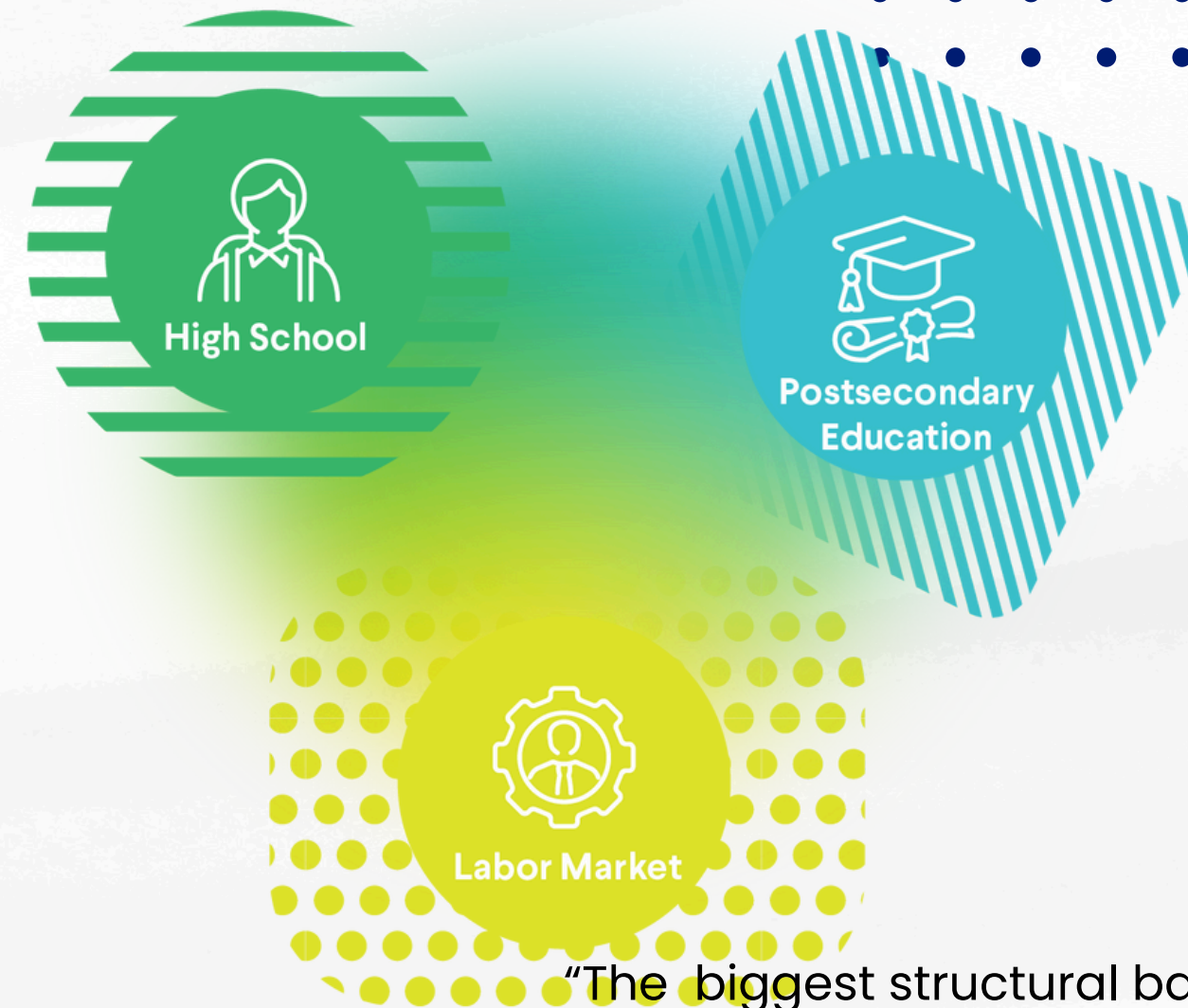
No, House Bill (HB) 505 prohibits limiting the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll while in high school and the number of dual credit courses in which a high school student may enroll during a single semester or academic year (TEC §28.009)

## **Who decides the number of high school credits a student receives for a dual credit course?**

### **Shouldn't the dual credit course cover ALL of the TEKS??**

The school district decides the alignment and credit assigned to each dual credit course.

The student expectations in the TEKS describe a level of knowledge and skill that is expected of a student upon completion of that high school course. The course for which college credit is awarded must provide advanced academic instruction beyond, or in greater depth than, the essential knowledge and skills for the equivalent high school course (TEC 74.25 (b)).



“The biggest structural barrier to increasing college completion rates and career success in the United States is the enduring and seemingly intractable disconnect between high school, higher education, and our workforce systems” (JFF, 2021).

# FAST

## Financial Aid for Swift Transfer



2024-2025 Participating IHEs



### What & Who

The FAST program, as outlined in Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 13, Subchapter Q, provides funding to participating public institutions of higher education so they can offer dual credit courses to educationally disadvantaged students at no cost to these students.



### Educationally Disadvantaged?

Students eligible for the national free/reduced-price lunch program. A student who meets this requirement **in any of the four school years prior to the academic year in which the student is enrolled in the eligible dual credit course** may be eligible for the FAST program.



### How much does FAST pay?

The FY 2025 (2024-2025) tuition rate is \$56.87 per semester credit hour (or equivalent).

The FAST tuition rate adopted by the THECB serves two purposes:

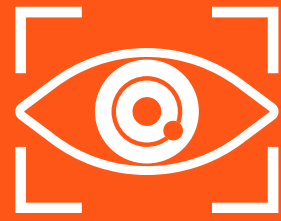
- Funding rate: Participating institutions will receive an allotment of funding equal to the FAST tuition rate for each semester credit hour (or equivalent) of dual credit coursework taken



### What about students who are NOT Educationally Disadvantaged?

- Maximum tuition rate: Participating institutions that have an agreement with an ISD or charter school **may not charge a per-credit tuition rate more than the FAST tuition rate to any student attending high school in a Texas school district or charter school for any eligible dual credit course offered by the participating institution.** Institutions may choose to charge a lower rate for any or all dual credit coursework without impacting the funding rate.

# High School Graduation & Dual Credit



## TEC CH. 74 B. Graduation Requirements

i. Courses offered for dual credit at or in conjunction with an institution of higher education that provide advanced academic instruction beyond, or in greater depth than, the essential knowledge and skills for the equivalent high school course required for graduation may satisfy graduation requirements, including requirements for required courses, advanced courses, and courses for elective credit as well as requirements for endorsements.



## TEC CH. 74 B. Graduation Requirements

(p) A school district shall permit a student to comply with the curriculum requirements under the Foundation High School Program by successfully completing appropriate courses in the core curriculum of an institution of higher education (IHE). A student who has completed the core curriculum of an IHE in accordance with TEC, §61.822, as certified by the IHE in accordance with §4.28 of this title (relating to Core Curriculum): (1) is considered to have earned an endorsement by successfully completing the appropriate courses for that endorsement; (2) is considered to have earned a distinguished level of achievement under the Foundation High School Program; and (3) is entitled to receive a high school diploma





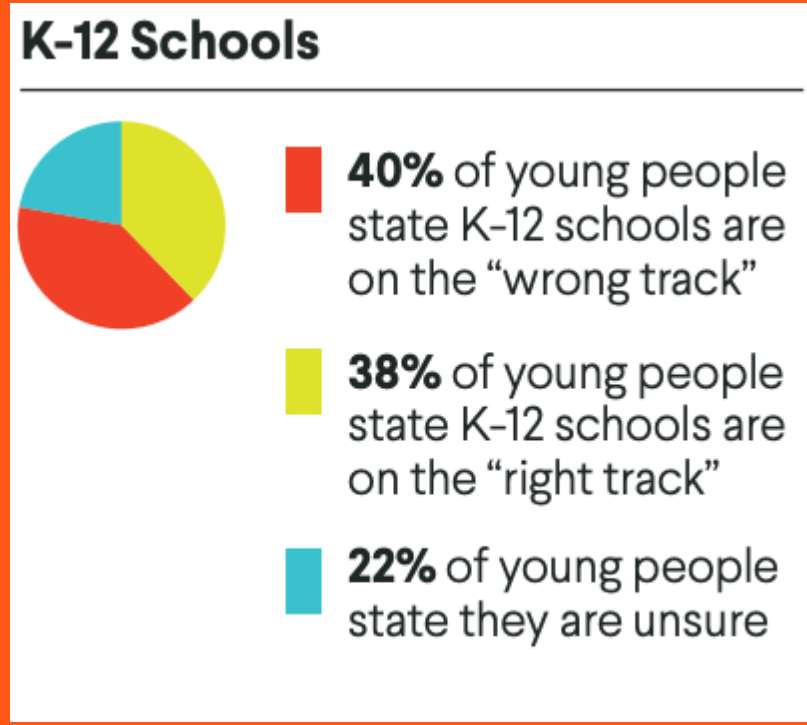
# Smart Alignment

Young people have mixed opinions on K-12 education as it currently stands, with 38% stating K-12 schools are on the “right track,” 40% stating they are on the “wrong track,” and 22% unsure. The areas they say are in need of greatest improvement are providing “career or jobs skills.”

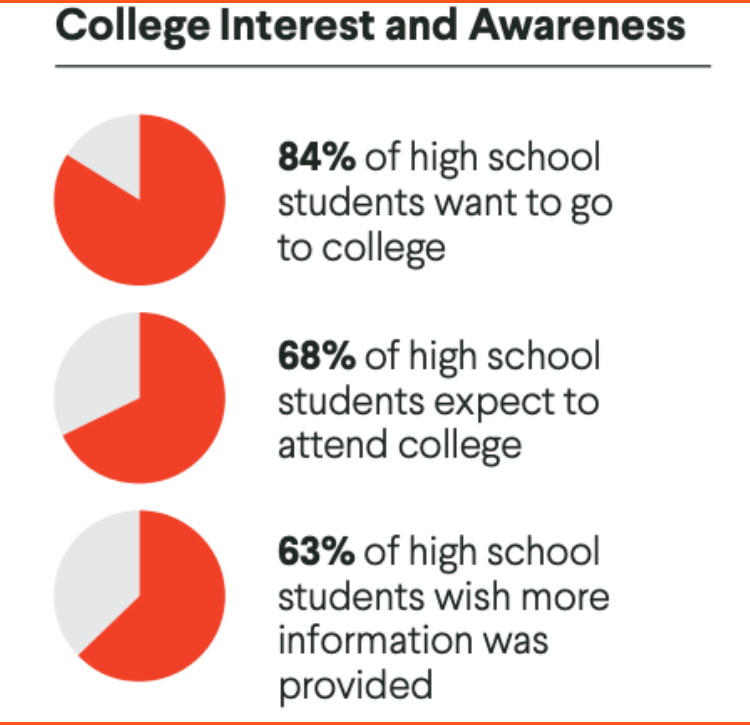
About 84% of high school students report that they want to go to college, but only 68% of students expect to attend.<sup>15</sup> Some of this drop-off may be due to lack of awareness: 63% of students say they wish their high school provided more information about postsecondary education opportunities.



## Problem 01



## Problem 02



# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Let's think about what's happening in the 9th grade? What's the focus of the high school campus, academic, and administrative team?

What about 10th grade?

11th grade? 12th grade?

# Focus Shift

It is time to rethink the high school experience!



## Financing College



**69%** of college students think they will struggle to pay tuition



**36%** of parents tapped college funds to cover expenses



**24%** of high school students said financial impact means they are less likely to pursue further education

# SMART TIMING

**9th**

Transition to High School, emotional maturity, student behaviors, **English I EOC, Algebra I EOC**. Are high school students being routed into IPC instead of Biology? What about World Geography AND World History?

**10th**

MANY High Schools are holding back Biology for 10th grade. Simply because we do not want students to take 3 EOC tests as a 9th grade student.

**11th**

FINALLY, students take US History! What's been happening in Math since Algebra I? What happens during 11th grade for English?

**12th**

?????????

# Dual Credit Info & Links

<b>Components &amp; Requirements of the Core Curriculum</b>		
<b>FCA Transcript Code</b>	<b>Component Area</b>	<b>Required Semester Credit Hours</b>
010	Communication	6 SCH
020	Mathematics	3 SCH
030	Life and Physical Science	6 SCH
040	Language, Philosophy and Culture	3 SCH
050	Creative Arts	3 SCH
060	American History	6 SCH
070	Government/Political Science	6 SCH
080	Social and Behavioral Sciences	3 SCH
090	Component Area Option	6 SCH

***The 42 Hours of Texas Core are updated each year (not necessarily changed).  
Information is found here: <http://board.thecb.state.tx.us/apps/TCC/>***

***NCTX Pathways Draft Dual Credit Crosswalk (Recommendations)***

***Make a Copy of Crosswalk Document for Use\****

# Fast Track Your Path to Texas Universities



## Texas First Program

We're excited to introduce the **TEXAS FIRST PROGRAM**. This prestigious opportunity enables you to graduate early with the Distinguished Level of Achievement AND receive a scholarship for college.

# Texas First Program

House Bill 8, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, establishes that a school district is required, rather than permitted, to issue a high school diploma under the Texas First Early High School Completion Program if the student demonstrates mastery of and early readiness for college in accordance with Texas Higher Education Coordinating (THECB) board rules. The statute does not authorize a school district to impose any additional requirements, including, for example, requiring a student to notify a district of their election to participate in the program earlier than the semester in which the student earns the diploma or limiting the students who may earn the diploma to juniors or seniors.

## **Eligibility for** **Texas First** **Diploma**

### **Prohibitions**

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School districts and charter schools may not –

- impose any additional requirements on a student who wishes to graduate with a Texas First diploma;
- require a student to notify the school of their election to participate in the program earlier than the semester in which the student earns the diploma; or
- only permit students classified as juniors or seniors to earn a Texas First diploma.

### **Diploma Equivalency**

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A student who graduates early through the Texas First Early High School Completion Program is considered to have earned a diploma with a distinguished level of achievement under Texas Education Code §28.025. The school must provide each student who earns a program diploma with a designation of distinguished level of achievement on the student's diploma.

For more information regarding the Texas First Early High School Completion Program, please visit the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Texas First Diploma web page](#).

# Texas First Program - Mandatory Notification

Upon a student's initial enrollment in high school, each public high school must provide a written notification to each high school student and the student's parent or guardian regarding the requirements to earn a high school diploma under the program and the Texas First Scholarship Program and listing the eligibility criteria for the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and Texas First Scholarship Program. (19 TAC Part I, §21.54)

The notice must include information about the requirement that a student must provide an official copy of their assessment results and transcripts, as applicable, to receive credit for the assessments and credits required to graduate with a Texas First diploma.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has provided a [flyer](#) that can be used by school districts and charter schools as notification to students and families.

## [Flyer - Suitable for use for Mandatory Notification](#)



**Fast Track Your Path to Texas Universities**

## Texas First Program

We're excited to introduce the **TEXAS FIRST PROGRAM**. This prestigious opportunity enables you to graduate early with the Distinguished Level of Achievement AND receive a scholarship for college.

As one of Texas' top students, you may be eligible to accelerate your path to college and receive a scholarship for one or two semesters at any Texas public institution of higher education, including colleges, universities, and technical colleges.



Talk to your counselor today to see if this exciting new opportunity is the right path for you!

For more information, visit [our website](#) or scan the QR code on the left.



**LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**THE FINE PRINT:**

Here's what you need to be eligible:

- Texas residency
- FAFSA completion
- At least 22 high school credits and a final GPA equivalent to 3.0 or higher
- Additional academic requirements, including college readiness test scores, STAR exam participation, and demonstration of mastery in various subjects

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board website link above includes a detailed list of eligibility requirements.

If you graduate two or more semesters before your class, you'll receive a two-semester scholarship, equivalent to the amount of the TEXAS grant, upon admission to any Texas public institution of higher education, including colleges, universities, and technical colleges. You may also be eligible for additional financial aid at most of these institutions!

The Texas First Diploma does not guarantee automatic admission for students. Ask your counselor if your grade point average at graduation qualifies you for automatic admission under the state's top 10 percent law.

You can apply to any college or university you choose; however, the scholarship will apply only at the Texas public institution of higher education where you have been admitted.

**Use it or lose it!** The scholarship offer will expire at the end of the first academic year following your graduation, so we encourage you to attend college directly after high school.

**NOTE:** Before September 1, 2023, the Texas First Scholarship was only applicable at 10 Texas public universities. However, effective September 1, 2023, the number of

*institutions of higher education eligible to award the Texas First Scholarship to eligible Texas First Diploma graduates expanded from 10 universities to all Texas public institutions of higher education, including colleges, universities, and technical colleges (Senate Bill 2294, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session). Please see your high school counselor for information regarding eligibility requirements to graduate early under the Texas First Program and receive a scholarship up to one year upon admission to any eligible Texas public institution of higher education, per Texas Education Code, Section 61.003.*

# SMART ALIGNMENT



## **Systemic Alignment**

Systems are aligned so that at 11th grade students enter new institutional structures incorporating high school and college requirements designed for career preparation and incorporating work experience.



## **Career Pathway Structure**

Career Pathway Structures enable students to take incremental steps on a career pathway, and result in credentials with labor market value by the end of 14th grade as well as the ability to progress in further education.



## **Eliminate WASTED TIME**



## **Supervision Or Monitoring**

Students who may not necessarily be college bound have support in high school to give it a try!



## **Lay the Groundwork for a CULTURE of Postsecondary success**



# FOUR STEPS



## Laying the Groundwork: **FOUR** Radical Steps

- Standardize high school and postsecondary credits
- Ensure that high schools and community colleges have similar schedules
- Make a passing score on statewide high school assessments a trigger for admission to public community colleges without remediation
- Require guided pathways!

## Resources & Links

JFF. (2021). *The Big Blur. An Argument for Erasing the Boundaries Between High School, College, and Careers—and Creating One New System That Works for Everyone.* <https://info.jff.org/thebigblur>

TEA. (2024). Texas First Early High School Completion Program. <https://tea.texas.gov/academics/graduation-information/state-graduation-requirements/texas-first-early-high-school-completion-program>

Texas Education Code - Chapter 74 - Update August 2024

Texas Education Code - Chapter 28 - Courses of Study; Advancement  
See Sec. 28.0253. TEXAS FIRST EARLY HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM.

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. (2024). Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 21, Subchapter D - Texas First High School Completion Program.  
[https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=5&ti=19&pt=1&ch=21&sch=D&rl=Y](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=19&pt=1&ch=21&sch=D&rl=Y)

# Renda Songer MPA. M.Ed. MCJ

Renda Songer serves as the Lead Regional Convener for North Central Texas Pathways, where she plays a pivotal role in coordinating and guiding educational initiatives that support career and technical pathways in the region. With a focus on fostering collaboration between schools, industries, and community partners, Renda ensures that students have access to robust opportunities for career exploration and skill development, helping them to successfully transition from education to the workforce. Her leadership drives impactful programs that equip students with the tools and credentials needed for future success..



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[www.facted.org](http://www.facted.org)



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**NCTX Pathways  
Lead Regional  
Convener**