

WASHINGTON STEM 2021

POLICY PRIORITY: EQUITABLE ACCESS TO DUAL CREDIT



Washington STEM is a statewide, education nonprofit leveraging STEM for social change, removing barriers to credential attainment, and creating pathways to long-term economic security for systemically underserved students. Our priority populations include students of color, girls, low income students, and youth from rural areas.

ACCESS TO COLLEGE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL DUAL CREDIT:

We [support House Bill 1302 “College in the High School.”](#) The proposed legislation expands the College in the High School program to allow 9th graders to receive college credit but completing college level courses with a passing grade. The proposed legislation also:

- Sets a maximum per college credit tuition fee for a program course at \$65;
- The public high school, rather than the school district, may enter a local contract with a higher education institution to offer the courses;
- Requires high schools provide general information about the program to all students in grades 8-12 and to the parents and guardians of the students;
- If implemented, allows for students who are already enrolled in College in the High School courses to earn college credit.

WHY: Washington STEM analyzed Data for College in the High School from the class of 2017-18. Statewide, 2,281 9th Graders Enrolled in College in the High School (CIHS). Of these almost all of the 9th graders completed the CIHS class (94%). However, zero students received credit for it. Regionally, in King County 423 9th graders enrolled in CIHS, with almost all completing the course. Similarly, in Snohomish County 950 9th graders enrolled in CIHS, with again, almost all (94%) completing the course. And none of these students received credit. While this legislation does not remove all cost barriers, it is an important incremental step to equitable access for dual credit in Washington.

WORKING TOWARDS EQUITY IN ALL DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS:

Washington STEM currently serves on the statewide [Dual Credit task force](#) convened by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC.) The purpose of the task force is to create a system of dual credit programs that equitably serves students throughout the state and leads to increased postsecondary enrollment. The hope is to return in the 2022 legislative session armed with policy proposals that address equitable access to all 6 dual credit programs currently offered in Washington state (Advanced Placement, Cambridge, International Baccalaureate, Career Technical Education, Running Start, and College in the High School).

Washington STEM and 11 regional STEM networks embedded in communities work with our statewide partners on system level change. We, as an organization, work to center equity and center voices of the communities we intend to serve. We work to identify and fill gaps in our education system so that not only White or affluent students can access the skills, resources, and opportunities to education beyond high school, and gain family-sustaining wage jobs here in our state. Without support from agencies who uphold these systems, students are systematically left behind.

ABOUT US

At Washington STEM, our work revolves around three main areas:

- **Strategically Convene and Partner** with 11 Regional STEM Networks, alongside business, education, and community leaders to identify and scale effective local solutions.
- **Provide direct support** through open-source access to data and measurement tools and targeted financial investments.
- **Advocate for change** through educating decision makers, storytelling, and collaboration in order to create the foundation for lasting, equitable change in our state.

If you have any questions about our work, please contact Washington STEM Policy Director Dr. Bish Paul at bish@washingtonstem.org.

1,000,000 students across the state are supported through STEM Network activities and programs.

