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**To:** Directors of Education  
Council of Ontario Directors of Education  
College Presidents  
Colleges Ontario  
Regional Offices, Ministry of Education  
Regional and Field Offices, Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development

**From:** School College Work Initiative

**Date:** November 2, 2017

**Subject:** School College Work Initiative Request for Proposals, 2018-2021

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The School College Work Initiative (SCWI) is once again inviting joint applications from colleges of applied arts and technology and district school boards for collaborative Dual Credit programs and activities for the 2018-2021 academic years. Please forward this memorandum to the appropriate staff in your organization. As in the past, proposals must be submitted by SCWI Regional Planning Teams. Proposals will be submitted online. Detailed requirements can be found at <http://www.scwi.ca/>.

Building and sustaining better linkages between the college system and the secondary school system to support expanded and improved transitions by secondary students to postsecondary education is a strategic goal for the Government of Ontario and a high priority for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development. The overarching goal for the Student Success Strategy is to have increased numbers of students graduating from high school. Dual Credit learning opportunities help to achieve this goal through their primary focus on those students facing significant challenges in graduating. Supporting improved achievement for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and Children and Youth in Care continues to be an area of focus for the Ministry of Education.

Since its inception in 1997, the SCWI has contributed to the goal of increasing the number of students who graduate from secondary school and providing a seamless transition from secondary school to postsecondary education by supporting collaborative activities and programs.

### **SCWI Activities and Forums**

Starting in 2017-18, the government's Equitable Access to Postsecondary Education Initiative, has provided additional funding allowing for expansion to Activities and Forums. Continuing in 2018-19, RPTs are welcome to propose:

- Dual Credit Educator Forums which provide opportunities for both secondary school and college educators to better understand the policies and procedures of dual credit programs, and to plan for their students in these programs,
- Forums for classroom teachers to include information on how to better support students with Postsecondary Education (PSE) pathway planning,
- One day, hands-on college experiences for grades 7-12 students,
- Activities that promote mentoring for Grade 7 and 8 students by a college student or apprentice,
- Enhanced parent/guardian forums that are delivered at local PSE institutions and provide information to parents to support awareness about PSE opportunities, pathways, and resources to provide smooth transitions,
- After SWAC (School Within a College) and After Adult Dual Credit pilot activities which support

students in making a smooth transition to PSE. These pilots will be available to every student participating in either a SWAC or an Adult Dual Credit program.

## Dual Credit Programs

The primary focus of Dual Credit programs continues to be on those students facing challenges in earning their secondary school diploma. This includes disengaged and underachieving students under the age of 21 who have the potential to succeed at college but who are at risk of not graduating from high school, and students who have left high school before graduating, including students participating in boards' re-engagement initiatives.

The Adult Dual Credit Pilot Program, which started in 2017-18, has the potential to provide a fast track way to move adult students (aged 21 and older) through their OSSD and into postsecondary education. This program will support adult learners as they both complete their OSSD and transition on to their next/first postsecondary credential.

Proposals are also encouraged for Dual Credit learning opportunities for students in Level 1 in-school apprenticeship training as well as for students in Specialist High Skills Major programs.

*Dual Credit Programs: Policy and Program Requirements, 2013*

(<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/studentssuccess/dual.html>) contains the relevant policy and procedural details that are to be followed in the implementation of Dual Credit programs. Of particular importance are the sections on student selection, the requirement to assign a dual credit teacher for college-delivered programs, and the policy on assessment and evaluation in those programs. Adult dual credit pilot programs will be governed by existing dual credit policy and procedures.

## Funding and Accountability

Funding will be contingent upon successful fulfilment of prior program commitments and funds being appropriated by the Ontario Legislature, as per current practice. This Request for Proposals continues the use of a three-year planning time frame. The forecasts for 2019-20 and 2020-21 are required for planning purposes. Approvals for the second and third year will be made annually.

Regional Planning Teams will be required to meet reporting requirements including SMART goals, and data and financial reports as outlined in [School College Work Initiative \(SCWI\), Reporting, Approval & Monitoring Process for 2018-2019 School Year](#).

## Highlights from 2016-17

Preliminary data from 2016-17, indicates the following:

Of the 20,695 students enrolled in Dual Credit programs across the province,

- 18,241 (88%) students enrolled in Dual Credit programs remained until the end.
- 16,258 (79%) students enrolled in Dual Credit programs were identified as being disengaged and underachieving, the primary target group for whom Dual Credits were designed.
- 6,318 (31%) students enrolled in Dual Credit programs were reported to have an IEP.
- 2,189 (11%) students were reported to have previously left school and returned.

Of the 21,478 dual credits attempted, 19,543 dual credits were earned (Success Rate: 91%).

- The sixteen Regional Planning Teams, including 3 French-language teams, received SCWI approval for 117 activities and forums. Over 38,800 students, teachers, college faculty and

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Council of Ontario Directors of Education

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*Representing:*  
*Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne (AGÉFO)*  
*Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA)*  
*Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association (OPSOA)*

administrators participated in these opportunities.

(Note: Figures reported are preliminary based on available EDCS data current as of September, 2017. Figures are subject to change pending final data.)

Rubrics were refined and used to make decisions about approval of Dual Credits, Activities and Forums.

The program's provincial website ([www.gotocollege.ca](http://www.gotocollege.ca)) and a website for Regional Planning Teams, administrators and educators ([www.scwi.ca](http://www.scwi.ca)) continue to support the promotion and delivery of the Dual Credit program.

Thank you for your continued support of this important initiative.



Frank Kelly,  
SCWI Project Manager