



## **Blueprint for Maryland's Future**

### **Maryland State Board of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board Joint Implementation Policy #1 – Dual Enrollment**

#### **Background:**

One of the key goals of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future is that all students meet the College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard before the end of the 10th grade and no later than the time the student graduates from high school. Once a student meets the CCR Standard, they enter at least one instructional pathway that builds on the student's interests and strengths through a CCR pathway. The Post-CCR Pathways allow students to develop in-depth specialization and/or earn a recognized credential, at no cost to the student or the student's parents, including the cost of any fees. These Post-CCR Pathways, as specified in Education Article § 7-205.1, can be within the following categories:

- A competitive entry college preparatory program, chosen by the county board, consisting of:
  - The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program;
  - The Cambridge AICE Diploma Program; or
  - A comparable program consisting of Advanced Placement courses specified by the College Board.
- A program that allows a student, through an early college program or dual enrollment at a student's high school and an institution of higher education to earn:
  - An associate degree; or
  - At least 60 credits toward a bachelor's degree.
- A robust set of Career and Technology Education (CTE) programs that are recommended by the CTE Skills Standards Advisory Committee and approved by the CTE Committee and that allow students to complete:
  - A credit or noncredit certificate or license program, course, or sequence of courses, including a program, course, or courses taken through dual enrollment under Education Article § 15-127, at a secondary or postsecondary institution, through an Advanced Placement course at a secondary institution, or through an apprenticeship sponsor that leads to an industry recognized occupational-credential or postsecondary certificate;
  - A registered apprenticeship program approved by the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning within the Maryland Department of Labor; or
  - A youth apprenticeship program, under Education Article §§ 18-1801 through 1809.

During the January 23, 2024 Maryland State Board of Education meeting, the State Board adopted a new College and Career Readiness (CCR) Standard, as required by the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, Education Article §7-205.1 "that enables the student to be successful in entry-level credit-bearing

courses or postsecondary education training at a State community college.” The newly adopted CCR Standard offers students two options for meeting the CCR Standard:

- Option 1: Students can meet the CCR Standard by demonstrating both Academic Success and Math Mastery. Academic Success is achieved by earning an unweighted High School Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 or higher. Math Mastery may be achieved by either earning a final course grade of A, B, or C in Algebra I, OR alternatively by scoring Proficient or above on the Algebra I Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) assessment.
- Option 2: Students can meet the CCR Standard by scoring Proficient or above on BOTH the English 10 MCAP assessment AND the Algebra I MCAP assessment.

For the 2024-2025 school year, the State Board of Education specified that students who meet EITHER the previously adopted interim CCR Standard or the newly adopted CCR Standard are eligible to participate in Post-CCR Pathways.

**Discussion:**

Based on the recent action, the Maryland State Board of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB) are now working quickly to identify and resolve all implementation issues of the newly adopted CCR Standard.

The State recognizes that the current cost of tuition and fees for dual enrollment courses taken by students who have met the newly adopted CCR Standard may currently exceed the Fiscal Year 2025 funding provided to the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) through the CCR per pupil formula defined in Education Article § 5-217, which is based on the interim CCR standard due to the timing of the formula’s calculation. As such, the State is developing policies that support equitable access to advanced coursework for students who meet the CCR Standard while responsibly remaining within the current financial constraints.

With the support of the State Board of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board, Chapter 164 (2024) (HB1426) was recently enacted. Effective June 1, 2024, this legislation amends Education Article § 7-205.1 to include this provision:

To phase in expansion of dual enrollment to maximize the number of students who can earn the maximum number of dual enrollment credits consistent with the phased increases in school funding, for Fiscal years 2025 through 2027, the State Board and the Accountability and Implementation Board, in consultation with each local school system, may limit the number and types of courses that a student dually enrolled at the student’s public high school and at an institution of higher education may enroll in during the school year at the institution of higher education as part of the Post-CCR pathway in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection and § 15–127 of this article.

Under this new authority, MSDE and AIB consulted with the local superintendents and other strategic partners to develop the policy described below.

## Policy Statements:

Therefore, the Maryland State Board of Education and the Accountability and Implementation Board jointly resolve that:

1. For students who have met the CCR standard, as it relates to the responsibility to cover the costs of tuition and fees of dual enrollment courses that are part of the Post-CCR Pathways taken during the school year, Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are responsible for, at a minimum:
  - a. 2 dual enrollment courses per Fall and Spring academic semester per student, for a possible total of 4 dual enrollment courses per year per student; and
  - b. Exam fees directly connected to courses that students are enrolled in for their first attempt at a specific exam.
2. LEAs may choose to cover the costs of additional tuition and fees beyond the minimums defined in Item 1.
3. Students may enroll in additional dual enrollment courses beyond those covered by the LEA. The costs of these additional courses will be the responsibility of the student. This includes enrollment beyond the guaranteed two courses per Fall and Spring semesters or courses taken outside the Fall or Spring semesters, such as during the Summer semester.
4. Students who have not yet met the CCR standard shall have initial access to Post-CCR Pathways, such as developmental and/or corequisite dual enrollment courses (*e.g.*, CCR supports) and introductory CTE courses, as part of the required CCR support for all students who do not meet the CCR standard.
5. This policy shall be in effect from Fiscal Year 2025 through Fiscal Year 2026. The State Board and AIB shall review the number of students who meet the CCR standard and who enroll in dual enrollment courses each year during this period for alignment and may revise this policy accordingly. The State Board and AIB will review this policy during the Fall of 2025 and discuss any needed revisions or extensions for Fiscal Year 2027.

*Adopted this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024.*



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Clarence C. Crawford

President, Maryland State Board of Education

*Adopted this 16th day of May 2024.*



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Chair, Accountability & Implementation Board