

Your Question:

You requested information on states that have open education sources available primarily for dual enrollment students as an alternative to textbooks.

Our Response:

No state currently mentions open source materials in state-level dual enrollment policies. However:

Utah: *Until 2016*, when concurrent enrollment policies were rewritten by [H.B. 182, statute](#) provided that technology-intensive concurrent enrollment courses should, “when possible, use open source materials available to all state institutions of higher education in order to reduce costs”.

Kentucky: Policy does not require or encourage institutions to use open source textbooks. However, many open source materials are available in the state, and in practice, many dual credit programs reduce program costs by using open source materials.

Additional thoughts

While state policy is generally silent on use of open source materials in dual enrollment courses, it is possible that decisions to use open source materials are made on a program-by-program basis within states, and that policies encouraging the use of open-source textbooks for traditional postsecondary students are also being applied toward dual enrollment courses.

In an October 2015 information request on the entity designated by states as responsible for covering dually-enrolled students’ non-tuition expenses, including textbooks, the most common response (in 20 states, including Colorado) was “locally determined.” In other words, state policy in these states explicitly directs the K-12 and postsecondary partner to determine the entity responsible for textbook costs. In local agreements that render the postsecondary partner responsible for dual enrollment textbook costs, it is possible that use of open source materials is more widespread.

In the October 2015 analysis, the second-most-common response on the entity responsible for non-tuition fees (in 14 states) was “unknown” or, more accurately, policy silent. The analysis identified only one state, Georgia, that explicitly requires postsecondary institutions to provide textbooks for dual enrollment courses.

Additional data & links

[Open-source textbooks can help drive down the overall cost of college](#) (Maria Millard, ECS, 2014) Summarizes legislative initiatives in California, Florida, Minnesota, North Dakota and Washington, as well as institution- or system-driven initiatives in several other states, to encourage or systemize the use of open source textbooks.