



South Dakota's Funding Models

South Dakota provides [dual enrollment](#) opportunities for its high school students through two separate programs: Dual Credit and Concurrent Enrollment. The state defines dual credit as college courses offered through postsecondary institutions, and concurrent enrollment as college courses offered through high schools. The Dual Credit program is funded by the state, offered through public postsecondary institutions and taught by postsecondary faculty; the Concurrent Enrollment program is not funded by the state, offered through high schools and taught by qualified high school instructors.

In the state's Dual Credit program, courses are offered through South Dakota's [10 public postsecondary institutions](#), including six South Dakota Board of Regents institutions and four South Dakota technical colleges. Courses must be taught by postsecondary faculty; they may be offered on campus, but the majority are offered online. Postsecondary institutions may also opt for in-district delivery, where individual sections of a course are taught by a postsecondary faculty member on the high school campus. The program is available to high school juniors and seniors who meet program eligibility requirements and are either enrolled in public, private or tribal schools or are receiving home instruction.

In the state's Concurrent Enrollment program, postsecondary institutions develop and grant credit for courses offered, but courses are taught by qualified high school faculty on high school campuses. All South Dakota postsecondary institutions are eligible to participate; however, institutions wishing to provide courses through its Concurrent Enrollment program must use National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships standards to manage their programs. In addition, they must commit to actively engaging an institutional faculty member in the discipline of the course as a mentor for the high school teacher providing instruction. The program is available to high school juniors and seniors who meet program eligibility requirements and are either enrolled in public, private or tribal schools or are receiving home instruction.

Who Pays for Dual Credit?

The state, students and postsecondary institutions are primarily responsible for covering the costs associated with participating in the Dual Credit program. The state covers two-thirds of a negotiated [reduced tuition amount](#) charged for all courses offered through the Dual Credit program. Students are expected to cover the remaining one-third of the reduced tuition rate, as well as any costs for

books, supplies and, when necessary, transportation. School districts may cover a portion of the student’s costs, though this is not required by the state.

Postsecondary institutions may not charge additional fees for Dual Credit program courses beyond the reduced tuition amount. Institutions contribute to program costs by subsidizing the difference between the reduced tuition amount and their standard tuition rate as well as any fees they would otherwise charge.

Funding for South Dakota’s Dual Credit Program

| | Tuition | Fees | Books/Supplies | Transportation |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| State | ✓ | / | / | / |
| Student | ✓ | / | ✓ | ✓ |
| Postsecondary Institution | ✓ | ✓ | / | / |
| School District | ✓ (Local decision) | / | ✓ (Local decision) | ✓ (Local decision) |

✓ **Always** contributes

✓ **Sometimes** contributes

☐ **Never** contributes

State Funding

In 2014, the South Dakota Legislature [passed a law](#) limiting tuition for Dual Credit program courses to 43% of the board of regents’ undergraduate tuition rate; the reduced rate currently amounts to \$145 per credit. The law also set up an annual legislative appropriation of state funds (as a line item in the state budget) to cover two-thirds of that cost, or \$96.67 per credit hour. The 2019-20 fiscal year state appropriation for the program amounted to [\\$4.3 million](#). State funds are sent to the South Dakota Department of Education, which distributes funds to eligible postsecondary institutions based on institutional billing and department verification of institutional costs. The department sends an annual request to the Legislature for an appropriation amount that estimates the costs of the program for the following year.

Nonstate Funding

South Dakota’s postsecondary institutions participating in Dual Credit contribute to program costs by subsidizing the amount of tuition not covered by the reduced tuition amount as well as the cost of any fees normally charged for those courses. In terms of tuition subsidy, compared to the \$145 per-credit reduced tuition charged

for Dual Credit courses, the [standard tuition](#) rate for courses offered through South Dakota technical colleges is approximately \$200 per credit; courses offered through board of regents institutions have a standard tuition rate of approximately \$300 per credit. Institutions wishing to receive state tuition funds for providing courses through in-district delivery must develop a partnership agreement with the associated school district and have a [memorandum of understanding](#) on file with the department of education.

While students are ultimately responsible for covering any costs of participation in the Dual Credit program beyond what is covered by the state, districts may support a portion of these costs through their own state allocation, local charitable funding or private scholarships. The type and amount of support provided by the district, as well as which costs are covered, are determined locally and not tracked by the department of education.

Direct Student Support

Students are billed by the postsecondary institution for one-third of the reduced tuition amount (\$48.33 per credit) for courses offered through the Dual Credit program. Students are also responsible for the full cost of books and supplies, which department of education staff estimated to be approximately \$25 to \$150 per class, as well as transportation costs when a course is not offered online. Student costs may be partially defrayed locally by school districts, though these local arrangements are neither required by the state nor tracked at the state level. District memorandums of understanding with the state, which are required for any district wishing to participate in the Dual Credit program, do specify that the high school will provide supervision, mentorship and support services related to the program for all eligible students.

Who Pays for Concurrent Enrollment?

Students and postsecondary institutions are responsible for covering costs associated with the Concurrent Enrollment program. State [guidance](#) indicates that students are responsible for the cost of tuition, books and supplies. Since courses are offered on the high school campus, there are no transportation costs associated with the program.

Postsecondary institutions may not charge additional fees for Concurrent Enrollment courses beyond the reduced tuition amount; institutions contribute to program costs by subsidizing any fees they would otherwise charge for the course. For some Concurrent Enrollment courses offered through board of regents institutions, tuition is limited to an [externally supported tuition rate](#).

For these courses, the external support is provided by the institution, which subsidizes the difference between the reduced tuition amount and its standard tuition rate.

Funding for South Dakota’s Concurrent Credit Program

| | Tuition | Fees | Books/Supplies | Transportation |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------|-----------------------|----------------|
| State | / | / | / | N/A |
| Student | ✓ | / | ✓ | N/A |
| Postsecondary Institution | ✓ | ✓ | / | N/A |
| School District | ✓ (Local decision) | / | ✓ (Local decision) | N/A |

✓ **Always** contributes

✓ **Sometimes** contributes

☐ **Never** contributes

State Funding

South Dakota does not provide state funding for the Concurrent Enrollment program.

Nonstate Funding

Postsecondary institutions and districts develop partnership agreements to specify which services and/or costs will be covered by which party. Districts support program costs by paying the salaries of high school faculty who teach the courses offered through the program. Postsecondary institutions may be more willing to externally support its tuition rate for Concurrent Enrollment courses, which are taught by high school instructors, since this arrangement removes faculty salary costs from the postsecondary partner.

Direct Student Support

Students are responsible for the cost of tuition, books and supplies for courses offered through the Concurrent Enrollment program. (No fees may be charged.) Student tuition costs are limited to \$40 per credit hour if the course is offered through a board of regents institution and subject to the [externally supported tuition rate](#). Since courses are offered on the high school campus, there are no transportation costs associated with the program. Student costs may be partially defrayed by school districts as detailed in specific district-to-postsecondary institution partnership agreements, which are not tracked at the state level.