

Alliance Collaborations

As noted in our April 2020 Board report, the Alliance for College Readiness's Leadership Team has engaged in a review of Alliance's name and structures to ensure our efforts support the success of all D509-region students. To that end, the following modifications to the Alliance's governance structure have been approved:

Revised Partnership Name: Alliance for College and Career Student Success (ACCSS)

Revised Vision Statement: All students in our region, from all backgrounds and of all abilities, have the opportunities and supports to succeed in college, career, and civic life.

Revised Mission Statement: The mission of ACCSS is to align and leverage the joint resources and expertise of the partnership organizations and the communities they serve through continuous improvement of secondary-to-postsecondary educational systems that empower and support all students in the region toward success in college, career, and civic life.

With the guidance of the EdSystems consulting team, we will finalize changes to the existing workgroup structures that will help us to achieve the above as well as implement improvements to increase college-career readiness collaboration throughout our district. In addition to the structural changes, the leadership team will also adopt the FY2021 priorities. Discussions were delayed due to District development of school reopening plans for fall 2020.

Below is a brief summary of drafted FY2021 workgroups and related priorities that are open for District feedback. As in prior years, the priority areas align with and continue to advance the four components outlined within the Illinois Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Act (PWR Public Act 99-0674).

College-Career Pathways Committee priorities

1. For the Information Technology and Business-Financial Services pathways, workgroups will finalize course maps defining secondary to postsecondary instructional sequences that include strategic dual credit courses and work-based learning experiences. This will complete work begun in 2019-2020.
2. Develop secondary to postsecondary pathways for the Health Sciences and Manufacturing-Engineering sectors that outline instructional sequences, dual credit, and work-based learning experiences.
3. Create regional opportunities for team-based challenges and/or career exploration.
4. Define metrics to monitor pathway participation, outcomes, and equity gaps.

Student Transitions, Interventions, & Support Committee priorities

1. Refine ECC's Middle School Friday program to provide a regional career exploration opportunity.
2. Enhance school counselor knowledge of best practices and resources to support student transition from secondary to post-secondary pathways that result in family economic stability.

- Expand College and Career Readiness workshops for D509 students and families, including enhanced remote accessibility, that align with the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations Framework (PaCE).
- Strengthen the collaboration between ECC TRiO programs serving middle and high school students (Upward Bound and Talent Search) and District/school partners.

Instructional Design & Support Committee priorities

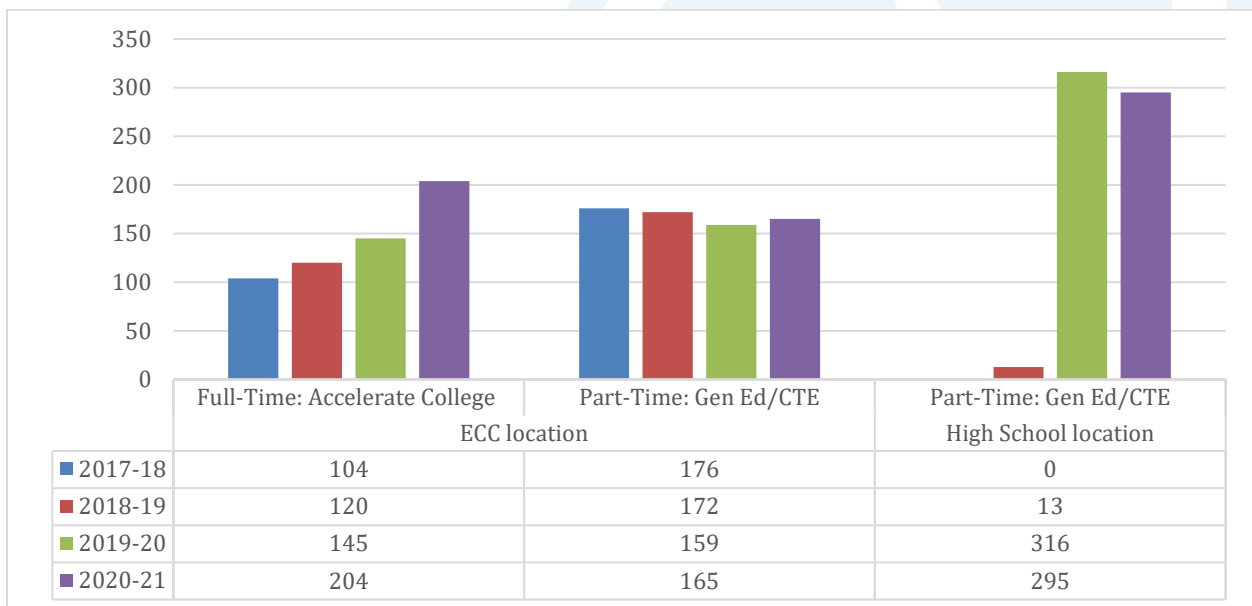
- Analyze student success data to strengthen Transitional Math course instruction.
- Develop Transitional English course curriculum and memorandum of understanding for D509.
- Coordinate regional professional development opportunities for career-technical, dual credit, and other interested educators via Communities of Practice.

Dual Credit Partnerships

In May 2020, 29 dual credit students earned their Associate degree prior to their high school graduation (compared to 10 students in 2019). Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the in-person celebration planned for May 15 is on hold. To honor these students, a yard sign was provided for each graduate’s home and two graduates were featured on the college’s celebratory video.

For the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, we expect the number of high school students participating in dual credit programs will exceed the total number in the prior school years. At the time of this report, we have enrolled 659 total students and expect additional enrollment as fall 2020 schedules are finalized in the coming weeks (6% increase over 2019-2020 with 620 total students).

Figure 1: Dual Credit Student Enrollment Trends



**Enrollments as of 7/21/2020*

Definitions for the categories listed in the chart include:

- (1) Full-time Accelerate College program at the ECC campus. Students enroll in a minimum of twelve credit hours in the fall and spring terms taking general education core courses (GECC).
- (2) Part-time courses at the ECC campus. Students enroll in up to seven credit hours in the fall and spring terms. Courses can be career-technical education (CTE) or general education courses.
- (3) Part-time courses at the high school campus. Across districts 300, 301, 303, and U46 qualified high school instructors will deliver fourteen college courses via the in-high school dual credit program model.

Lastly, the College continues to collaborate with the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center to deliver one-credit hour college courses for students in residence. The next course, COL-101 Student Success, is planned for August 2020 via synchronous video conferencing technology.

College Transition Programs

In collaboration with our secondary partners, the College Transitions staff will expand the number of college-career readiness workshops and resources available to D509 families and students. In addition, our team is working with District partners to reimagine the format for the Middle School Friday program in order to provide middle school students and their families with career exploration opportunities. The expanded workshop topics and revised Middle School Friday program aide our District partners in helping students meet the grade-level milestones defined in the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) framework. Workshops will be delivered remotely, and content recorded for easy access via the ECC and District websites. The pilot Middle School Friday event will be held at the College in spring 2021 to encourage exploration of our facilities and programs.

Federal TRiO grant programs identify and assist individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have potential to succeed in higher education with the goal of supporting their high school completion and enrollment in college. Elgin Community College proudly supports students through five TRiO grant programs:

Talent Search

This grant program is entering the fifth, and final, year of the grant award. In academic year 2020-2021, the Talent Search program will support 500 middle and high school students from low income and/or first generation households from School Districts U-46 and 300. We are currently working with both school districts to learn more about their fall 2020 reopening plans in order to determine potential impacts on the delivery of the following support services:

- Middle school-based tutoring and workshops
- Transition Academy (remote Saturday sessions to be held fall 2020)
- Talent Search Tuesdays at high school location include academic support and workshops
- High school parent and student workshops

Upward Bound

The two grant programs support 136 high school aged students from low income and/or first generation households from School Districts U-46 and 300. We are currently working with both school districts to learn more about their fall 2020 reopening plans in order to determine potential impacts on the delivery of the following support services:

- After-school tutoring at ECC, Monday thru Thursday 4-7 p.m.
- Academic Skills Workshops
- Social-Cultural Enrichment Events
- Academic and personal advising support
- Financial aid and scholarship application workshops

Student Support Services

The request to renew both the TRiO Student Support Services and Student Support Services – English as a Second Language grants was submitted to the Department of Education in January. The grant request is for 2021-2026. We have not yet received notification regarding the grant awards. In prior years, these combined grants supported over 500 ECC students.

In anticipation of the grant renewals, the staff is adapting services for remote delivery in the fall 2020 semester to ensure student support:

- Academic and career preparation
- Selecting postsecondary academic courses and major exploration
- Scholarships and financial aid programs
- College tours
- Assistance for ESL students enrolled in mainstream college classes
- Cultural, social, personal, and leadership development experiences

*Report submitted by Dr. Mary Perkins, Dean, College Transitions & Secondary Partnerships
July 31, 2020*