

Alliance Collaborations

To finalize the expanded scope of the Alliance for College and Career Student Success (ACCSS), a revised intergovernmental agreement between the College and its partner school districts is expected to be submitted for review by the ECC Board of Trustees by the end of 2021. A brief summary of progress made toward the 2020-2021 ACCSS priority areas is outlined below. Each of the priorities aligns with the four college and career readiness components outlined within the Illinois Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Act (PWR Public Act 99-0674).

In April 2021, the Alliance for College and Career Student Success (ACCSS), in partnership with the EdSystems team, drafted a document outlining key metrics to measure progress toward regional and district-specific college and career-related goals. The ACCSS Outcomes Framework will undergo further refinement in the 2021-2022 academic year as we examine data availability, establish goals for the region, and create reporting tools. Members of the Coordinating Council are committed to ensuring data – both aggregate data and student data disaggregated by race, gender, and socioeconomic status – is used by the ACCSS partnership to set goals and regularly monitor progress.

College-Career Pathways

During the 2020-2021 academic year, regional D509 college-career pathway maps have been published for the following areas: (1) Information Technology, (2) Business-Financial Services, (3) Education, (4) Health Sciences & Technology, and (5) Manufacturing & Engineering Technology. Each map is designed based on high-priority occupations that were identified through labor market data and aligned to promising credentials offered at Elgin Community College as well as four-year universities. A key component of the map is the inclusion of foundational or strategic college courses common across the promising credentials. These courses provide a broad foundation of knowledge important to that industry sector and are feasible for dual credit delivery. The regional and district-specific maps outline instructional course sequences and work-based learning experiences grades 9-12. A key component of college-career pathway development includes incorporating work-based learning experiences that align with and enhance a student's career pathway. The EdSystems team has expanded secondary and postsecondary partner understanding of the continuum of work-based learning options. The regional maps are available via the Alliance website at www.elgin.edu/alliance.

Districts have also received templates and tools that support secondary pathway development. These include a Pathways School Readiness Framework that outlines key steps and actions as well as a Pathway Readiness Framework Tracker to aid with documenting progress. Due to the pandemic, limited progress was made by Districts 300, 301, 303 and U-46 in developing district-level action plans that delineate steps for implementing the regional pathway maps. This planning will begin in summer 2021 with focused support from the ECC and EdSystems staff. Finally, the ACCSS Coordinating Council refined the D509 Pathway Development Guidelines that detail collaborative steps to create college-career pathways spanning grades 9 through 14. The updated D509 Pathway Development Guideline document will be available in fall 2021. The College-Career Pathways Committee is presently determining areas of foci for 2021-2022.

Student Transitions, Interventions, & Support

In collaboration with secondary and other community partners, the Alliance has expanded its annual workshops for D509 students and families to access information related to key topics such as career

exploration, postsecondary education exploration, preparation, and selection, and financial aid and literacy. As of May 2021, there have been 13 workshops conducted. Planning is underway with our secondary partners to expand workshop offerings in 2021-2022.

A pilot seven-week training session for D509 school counselors will be held in summer 2021. The training will expand counselor knowledge of post-secondary pathway options and resources. We are excited to partner with the training organization, Chicago Jobs Council, who has been training Chicago Public School counselors for several years. Participating counselors and ECC staff will complete their Chicago College and Career Advising Credential (CCCAC) by August 2021.

Instructional Design & Support

The Alliance partnership implemented three high school Transitional Math courses in 2019-2020 and continues to support the instructors teaching these courses. In school year 2020-2021, these courses have nearly 1,300 students enrolled across the four school districts.

In January 2021, the State of Illinois adopted key implementation guidance for high school Transitional English courses. The *Transitional English Language Arts (ELA) Competencies and Policies* guidance will be used by the Alliance planning team later this calendar year as they resume planning for the development of these courses in our local schools.

In 2020-2021, (18) qualified high school instructors are teaching dual credit courses for high school students in a total of (6) academic departments. There are (7) ECC faculty who are working as Dual Credit Liaisons to provide instructional support to each high school instructor. Liaisons are also responsible for reviewing course materials and conducting site visits to ensure courses delivered at the high school location, by qualified high school instructors, reflect the quality and rigor for classes taught on the college campus.

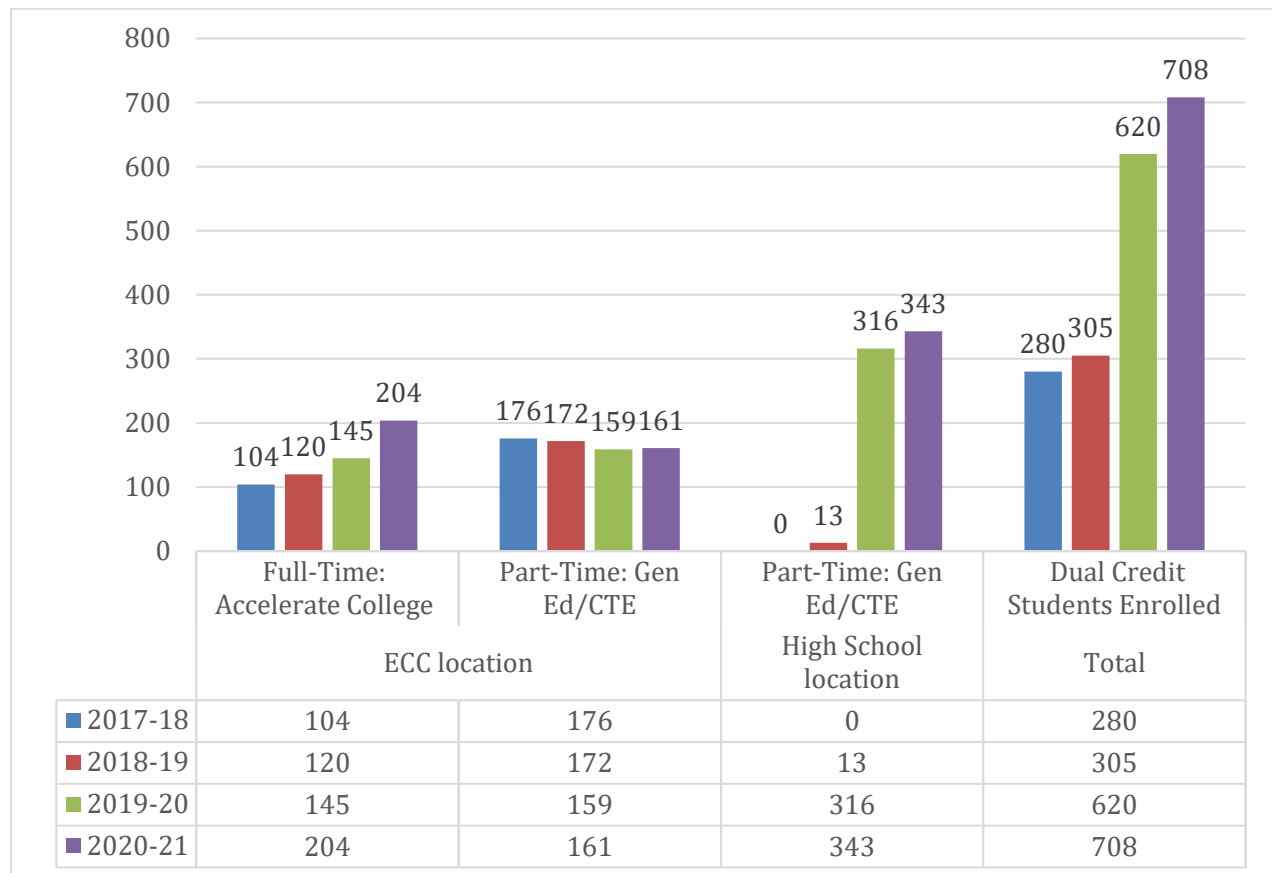
The Alliance will re-establish regional professional development opportunities for high school and college instructors via Communities of Practice in 2021-2022.

Dual Credit Partnerships

Dual credit program enrollment continues to grow. At the present time, enrollments show a nearly 15% increase over academic year (AY) 2020-2021. It is expected the figures reported in the graph below will continue to increase through the summer months as registration for students taking classes at their high schools is finalized for dual credit students.

In addition, ECC academic deans have been reviewing requests for dual credit courses that will be taught by qualified high school instructors at the high school sites during the 2022-2023 academic year. As indicated in the following graph, enrollments in part-time dual credit courses offered at high school sites continues to be our greatest area of growth and the increased number of requests submitted to date indicate continued growth into the next academic year.

Figure 1: Dual Credit Student Enrollment Trends



*Enrollments as of 7/19/2021

College Transition Programs

As noted above, we have expanded the number of college-career readiness workshops and resources available to D509 families and students this school year. 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.

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 – three that support secondary students in our region and two that support ECC college-aged students:

Talent Search

This program is in its fifth, and final, year of the 2016 grant award. The following support services continue to be provided to the 500 program students:

- Online after-school tutoring and workshops for middle school students
- Online Talent Search Tuesday support and workshops for high school students

- Online parent workshops on topics related to college-career readiness and support
- Regular follow up with students to engage them in virtual services

The 2021 grant application has been submitted to continue support of 500 middle and high school students from low income and/or first-generation households from identified School Districts U-46 and 300 schools.

Upward Bound

The two grant programs support 134 high school-aged students from low income and/or first-generation households from identified high schools within School Districts U-46 and 300. The following support services continue to be provided to the program students:

- Online after-school tutoring
- Online academic skills workshops
- Online academic and personal advising support
- Online financial aid and scholarship application workshops
- College tours in Milwaukee, WI
- Technical support

Student Support Services

The federal TRiO Student Support Services and Student Support Services – English as a Second Language grants were renewed by the Department of Education in July for another five-year award. These combined grants support over 500 ECC students (SSS serves 362; SSS-ESL serves 144). The following support services continue to be provided to the program students:

- Online individual and small group academic and career preparation
- Virtual support for selecting postsecondary academic courses and major exploration
- Online access and guidance in navigating scholarships and financial aid programs
- Virtual college tours
- Virtual and in-person support for ESL students enrolled in mainstream college classes
- Grant aid assistance

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