

DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS: RUNNING START AND TECH PREP

SUMMARY OF POLICY ISSUE /STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SBE) STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL

The SBE's proposed CORE 24 graduation requirements framework underscores the importance of meeting the Board's goal of improving student preparation for postsecondary education and the 21st century world of work and citizenship. Student preparation for life after high school is expedited by dual enrollment programs. Dual enrollment programs are intended to prepare high school students for a successful transition to college and give qualified high school students the opportunity to earn college credit while satisfying academic requirements for high school graduation.

BACKGROUND

Washington provides six dual enrollment options to students:

- Running Start
- Tech Prep
- College in the High School
- Advanced Placement
- International Baccalaureate
- Early College High School

Descriptions of each of these options are included on a separate table. Information about two of them—Running Start and Tech Prep—will be presented at the March meeting. The other dual credit programs will be addressed at future meetings.

Running Start: The Running Start program allows 11th and 12th grade students to take college courses at Washington's 34 community and technical colleges, and at Washington State, Eastern Washington and Central Washington Universities, The Evergreen State College and Northwest Indian College. Students earn both high school and college credits for these courses. Running Start students and their families do not pay tuition, but they do buy their own books and provide their own transportation. Students receive both high school and college credit for these classes, thus accelerating their progress through the education system.

Running Start serves over seven percent of the state's high school juniors and seniors. There is some evidence to suggest that Running Start students perform well while they are in the program and upon transferring to universities. For instance, in 2006-07 Running Start students

earned a grade point average of 3.04 after transferring to the University of Washington. In general, Running Start students complete more of the credits they attempt, with better grades, than other recent high school graduates who are attending college.¹

Running Start History: The 1990 Legislature created Running Start as a part of the “Learning by Choice” law, which was designed to expand educational options for students. To initiate the program in 1990, the Legislature authorized a two-year pilot program. The program began statewide in 1992-93, when approximately 3,350 students enrolled at the community and technical colleges. The 1994 Legislature expanded the program to include three state universities (Washington State, Central and Eastern) to provide Running Start access to communities where no two-year colleges are available. In 2003, The Evergreen State College was added to the list of universities eligible to offer Running Start and in 2005, Northwest Indian College was added.²

Tech Prep: The Tech Prep program provides an opportunity for students to earn college and high school credit for career and technical education courses taught on high school campuses by high school instructors. Articulation agreements between colleges and school districts assure that the competencies students are expected to achieve in order to earn college credit are earned at the college level. Colleges award credit to high school students who successfully complete courses with a “B” or better. All of the state’s 34 community and technical colleges are partners to Tech Prep. In 2007-08, over 24,326 Washington students earned over 148,160 community and technical college credits in Tech Prep classes—an average of over six credits per student.³

Under Carl Perkins Title II legislation, Tech Prep must lead to an associate degree, two-year certificate, or apprenticeship. Washington Tech Prep is managed through the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, in partnership with the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Tech Prep History: In 1990, the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act (Public Law 105-332) was adopted, and it set goals for improving student achievement and preparation for post-secondary technical education, training and careers, effectively launching Tech Prep. Now the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act, the program contributes substantially to Washington State’s Tech Prep program. Some \$2 million in Perkins funding will flow to Tech Prep programs across the state.⁴ The Perkins Act of 2006 requires any school district that accepts Perkins funds to have at least one program of study. A program of study is “designed to provide students with a non-duplicative sequence of progressive achievement leading to technical skill proficiency, a credential, a certificate, or a degree; and linked through credit transfer agreements between the two institutions.”⁵

¹ Running Start 2006-07 Annual Progress Report. May 2008. State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/docs/data/research_reports/runstart/runstart_a06.pdf

² Ibid.

³ Personal communication. February 26, 2009. State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

⁴ Carl Perkins \$24 million grant gives educators chance to innovate. July 14, 2008 Press Release. Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.

⁵ 2008-2009 Tech Prep Plan Annual Planning Guidelines. March 2008. State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

POLICY CONSIDERATION

Policy questions the SBE may want to explore include the following:

- What evidence do we have that dual credit programs improve college readiness and transition to college?
- How do dual credit programs benefit students, and which students do they benefit?
- What are the policy barriers to expanding dual credit programs?
- To what extent should students who complete dual credit programs and earn a credential (associate's degree, certificate, International Baccalaureate diploma) be held to all state-mandated graduation requirements?

EXPECTED ACTION

None. Information only.



Dual Enrollment and Dual Credit Programs

These programs help Washington State students earn college credit and useful college-level skills while still in high school.

Program Name Website	Description	Location	Benefits	Student Responsibilities	Eligibility	Student Costs
Tech Prep www.techprepwa.org	Federally funded program allowing students to earn college credit by taking certain career and technical education courses in high school. Credits apply toward certificate or applied associate degree.	High school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain in high school Prepare for career Earn both high school and college credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enroll in Tech Prep designated class at the high school Register for Tech Prep credit Earn a "B" or better in the course 	"B" or better in the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal to no cost to student. \$0 to \$25 registration, transcription fee
Running Start www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/e_hcollegeprogs.aspx	Qualified Washington State high school juniors and seniors attend college classes and earn both high school and college credit at the same time.	College	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earn college and high school credit at the same time Accelerated class Enrolled with college students Potential to earn high school diploma and associate degree simultaneously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet college application, registration deadlines Ensure credits apply to high school graduation requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior or senior standing College-level score on college placement test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuition waived. Student pays for consumable supply fees, textbooks and transportation.
College in the High School www.sbctc.ctc.edu/college/_e-wkforcecollegeinhighschool.aspx	Qualified high school students take academic college-level courses taught at their high school, based on a local contract. Students earn both high school and college credit.	High school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remain in high school Accelerated class Earn both high school and college credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet college course standards 	High school determines if student ready for college-level work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variety of fees, including tuition and textbooks. Up to full tuition and books

Program Name Website	Description	Location	Benefits	Student Responsibilities	Eligibility	Student Costs
Advanced Placement (AP) www.k12.wa.us/AdvancedPlacement/default.aspx	<p>Specific, rigorous courses which prepare high school students to take Advanced Placement tests.</p> <p>AP credit may allow higher placement and/or credit at the postsecondary level.</p>	High school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remain in high school ▪ Accelerated class ▪ Advanced placement and/or college credit granted based on test score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Apply for testing ▪ Meet high academic standard 	Pass pre-requisite courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Test fee
International Baccalaureate (IB) www.k12.wa.us/AdvancedPlacement/default.aspx	<p>Internationally recognized program which offers college credit for students completing a standardized curriculum and passing a culminating exam.</p>	High School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remain in high school ▪ College credit if high enough test score 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain high degree of scholarship ▪ Apply for testing 	Determined locally	Test fee
Early College High School	<p>Gates-funded initiative that offers a 9th to 12th grade accelerated learning experience for under-prepared students.</p>	High school or college	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to earn high school diploma and associate degree simultaneously 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determined locally 	Determined locally	Varies

Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges, January 2009

Tiffany Merkel-Rinke, Program Administrator, tmerkel@sbctc.edu

1300 Quince St SE ▪ PO Box 42495 ▪ Olympia, WA 98504-2495 ▪ (360) 704.4332, office ▪ (360) 704-4418, fax

Dual Credit Programs Running Start and Tech Prep

State Board of Education

March 13, 2009

Jan Yoshiwara

State Board for Community and
Technical College

1

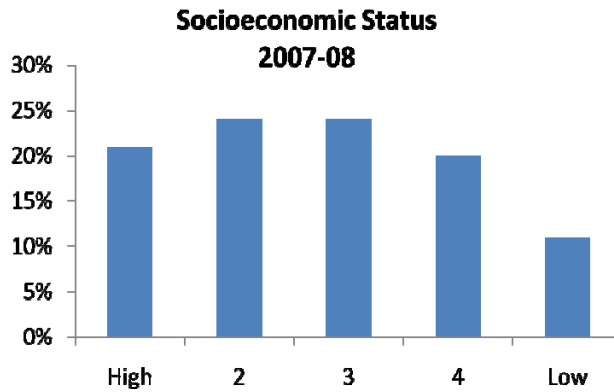
Running Start

- The 1990 Legislature created the **Running Start** program to expand educational options for public high school students
- Running Start Students
 - Make up 10% of high school juniors and seniors (15,580 students in fall 2008)
 - Can acquire dual credit in the 11th and 12th grades
 - Do not pay tuition, but do buy books and pay for transportation
 - Complete more of the credits they attempt with better grades than other recent high school graduates attending college

2

Student Demographics

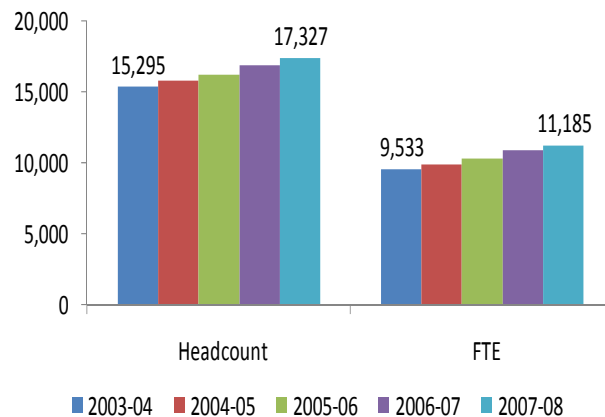
- Running Start students are from middle to high income families
- 59% female
- 22% students of color, compared to 28% among high school students



3

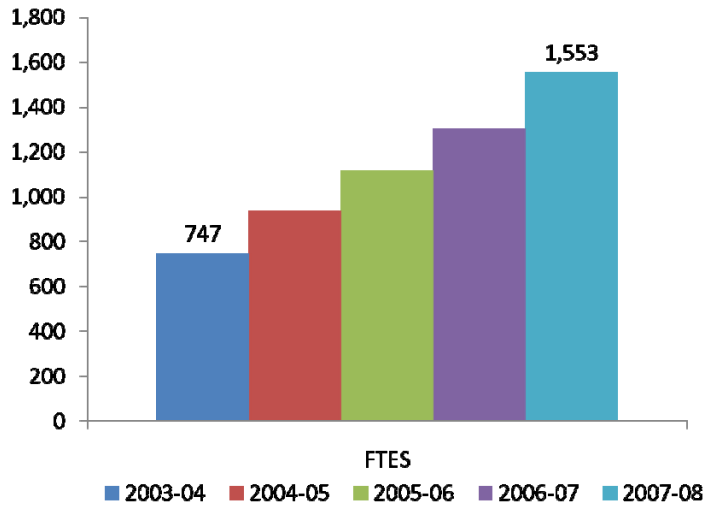
Running Start enrollments continue to grow

- Typical RS student takes 12 college credits in a quarter, 29 credits during the year
- 51% attending CC full-time
- Fall quarter, 10% of high school juniors and seniors were taking college classes through Running Start



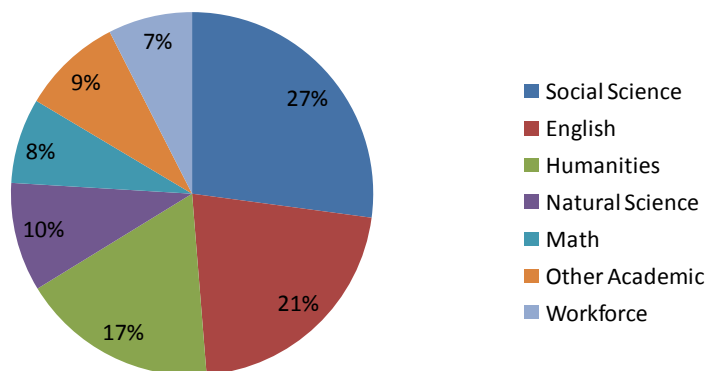
4

eLearning enrollments have more than doubled over past 5 years



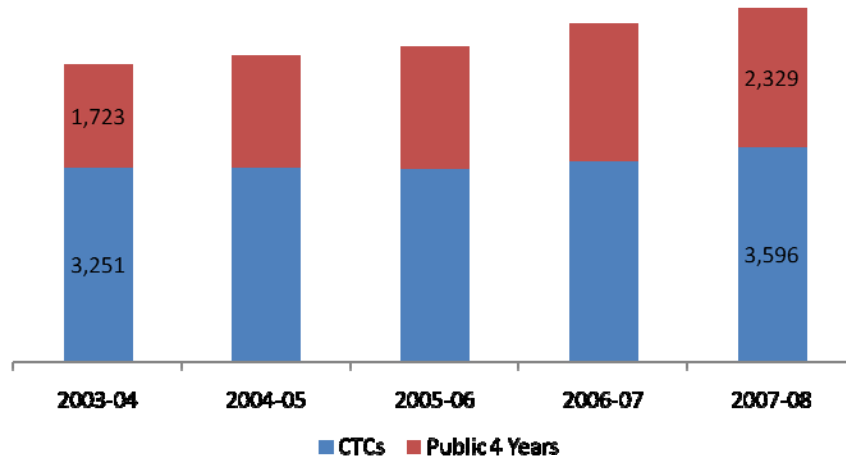
5

Running Start students focus on courses to meet high school diploma requirements



6

Most Running Start students continue at CTCs after high school

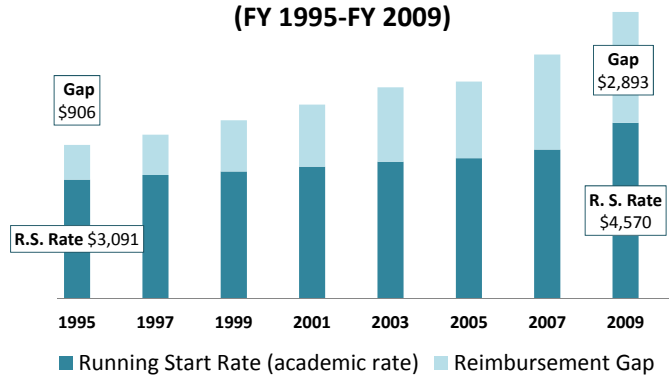


7

Current funding structure limits growth

Funding gap between what the colleges receive, and the full cost of providing instruction and student services has tripled from **\$906 in 1995** to **\$2,893 in 2009** per student

Running Start Reimbursement
vs. Reimbursement Gap
(FY 1995-FY 2009)



8

Running Start Funding Gap

- Statewide gap in funding has created annual funding deficit of nearly \$35 million
- Short-term solution – allow colleges to count RS students toward FTE targets and to charge RS students non-tuition college/program fees required of other college students

9

Running Start Benefits

Strong college performance: Running Start students complete more college course work, with better grades, than other recent high school graduates attending college

High rate of bachelor's degree completion: Running Start students complete their bachelor's degrees in Washington following a pattern similar to other transfer students

Saves money for students and state: Reduces net tuition costs for students as well as state cost per bachelor's degree. Former Running Start students complete their bachelor's degree with 33 fewer state supported credits than those who do not participate in Running Start and enter universities as freshmen.

10

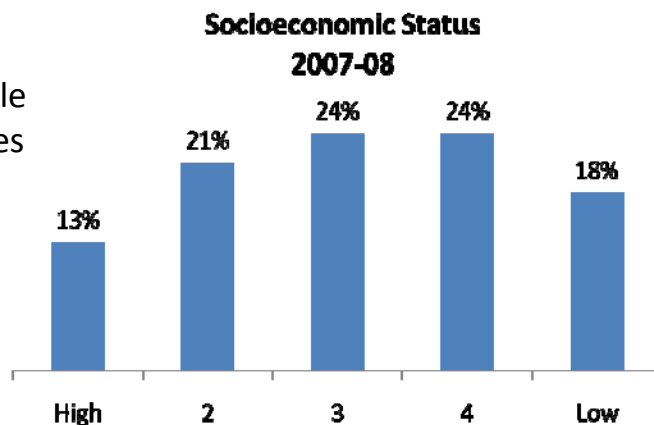
Tech Prep

- Federally funded cooperative effort between high schools, community and technical colleges, and the business and labor community to develop applied, integrated academic and technical programs
- Tech Prep students -
 - Can acquire dual credit beginning in 9th grade through 12th grade
 - Must complete articulated career and technical education courses with a “B” grade or better.
 - Receive instruction at the high school by high school instructors teaching college-level approved curriculum

11

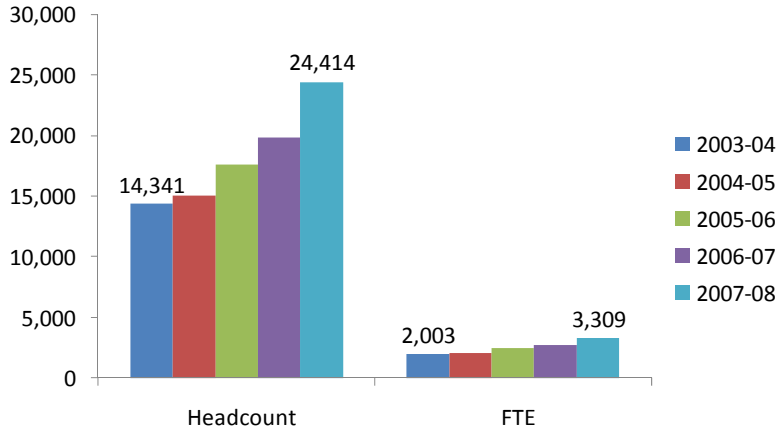
Student Demographics

- Tech Prep students are mainly from lower to middle income families
- 60% female
- 27% students of color, compared to 28% among high school students



12

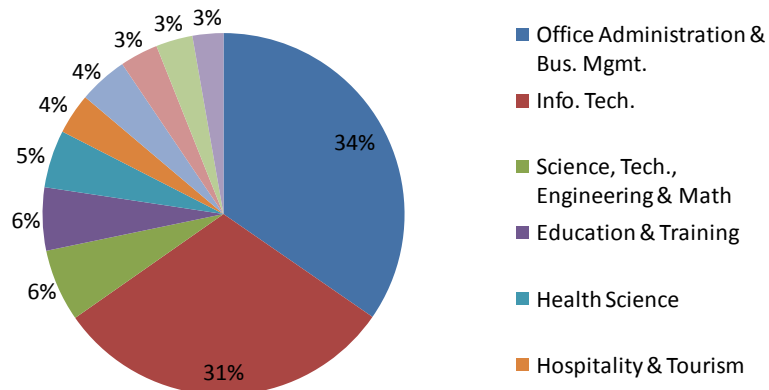
Tech Prep Headcounts and FTES



Typical Tech Prep student completes 6 college credits during the year

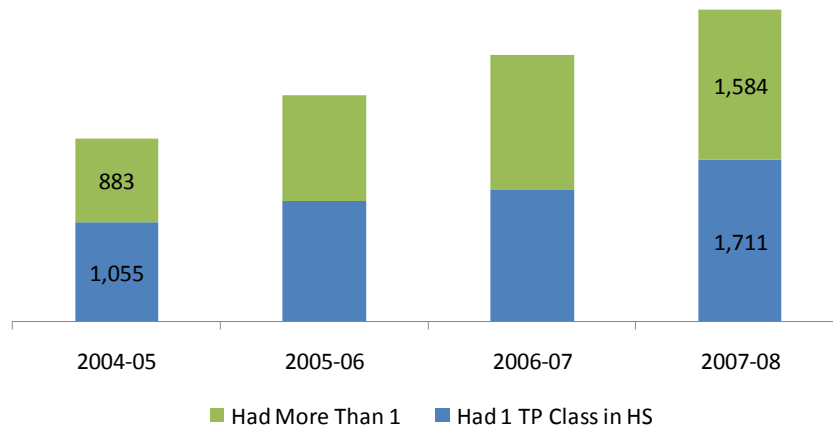
13

Most college credits are earned in business and information technology



14

Tech Prep students continue at CTCs with one or two college courses



15

Tech Prep Benefits

- Earn college credits: 24,400 Washington State high school students earned college credits through Tech Prep--an average of over six credits per student
- Go on to CTCs: In 2007-2008 3,295 students enrolled in community and technical colleges with college credit that could be applied to a certificate or degree
- Saves money for students and state: Students who apply Tech Prep credits to their college program of study save net tuition costs.

16

Summary

- Many high school students are earning college credit while in high school
- Dual credit creates time and cost efficiencies for the students and the state
- Students from lower income families are less likely to earn college credit while in high school
- Current funding structure for dual credit programs will impact growth in opportunities for students

17

Questions?

18