

Student-Centered Learning Fact Sheet

Learning Anytime, Anywhere is the principle that structured, credit-bearing learning experiences can take place outside of the traditional school day, or even the school year. They can take place in the community and are not restricted to the classroom.

Examples:

- Expanded learning opportunities (ELOs)
- Dual and concurrent enrollment
- Internships
- Community service
- Apprenticeships
- Online coursework.^{1,2}

Benefits of Learning Anytime, Anywhere

- Allows students to take courses not available at their school or that do not fit into their school schedule
- Helps students receive or recover credits toward high school graduation or obtain college credit
- Promotes college and career readiness
- Helps students develop important social and emotional skills, including problem solving, critical thinking, and strong work habits
- Improves attendance
- Allows students to explore a career or topic of interest
- Helps students develop meaningful relationships with adults outside of their school.^{3,4,5,6}

Learning Anytime, Anywhere

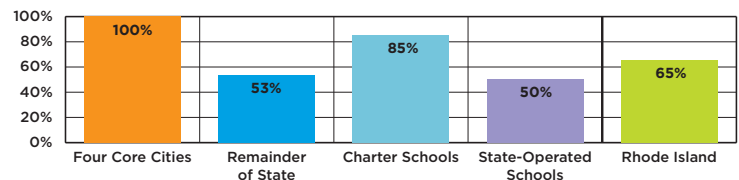
Dual and Concurrent Enrollment

- *Dual enrollment* allows students to take courses at a higher education institution and earn both high school and college credit.^{7,8}
- *Concurrent enrollment* allows students to take a college course at their high school and earn both high school and college credit.^{9,10}
- Prepare RI provides funding for qualified public school students to take dual and concurrent coursework at no cost to them or their families.¹¹
- Dual and concurrent enrollment provides advanced coursework options for high-achieving students, increases college access, reduces the time and expenses required to earn a college degree, and increases college completion rates, especially for low-income and minority students.^{12,13}
- During the 2015-2016 school year, 3,807 Rhode Island public high school students (9%) participated in dual or concurrent coursework. Low-income, minority, special education, and male students were less likely to participate than other students.¹⁴

Advanced Coursework Network

- Beginning in the Fall of 2016, Rhode Island students attending middle and high schools in participating districts will be able to participate in advanced coursework not normally available at their own school through an *Advanced Coursework Network*. Students who are home schooled or in private schools may also participate, but must pay for the courses themselves.¹⁵

Advanced Coursework Network Participation, By District Type, Rhode Island, 2016-2017 School Year



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2016-2017 school year. Includes only districts serving secondary school students.

- Students will be able to enroll in 120 different traditional, online, and blended courses in advanced math, science, world languages, and other subjects and earn middle school, high school, Advanced Placement, and/or postsecondary credit depending on the course.^{16,17}
- Courses will be offered by 14 different providers, including traditional school districts, higher education institutions, charter schools, and community-based nonprofits.^{18,19}

Expanded Learning Opportunities

- Expanded Learning Opportunities (ELOs) are student-centered, hands-on, community-based learning experiences that allow students to earn credit for work both inside and outside the traditional classroom.²⁰
- Students can earn elective or core credits in math, science, English, history, art, and other subjects.²¹
- Students that participate in ELOs work closely with a teacher mentor who is qualified in the subject the ELO is targeting and with a community mentor who helps apply their learning in a real-world setting.²²
- ELOs can be individual or group learning experiences.²³

P-TECH

- The Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program supports partnerships among high schools, colleges, and businesses and allows students to get both high school diplomas and associate's degrees in five or six years while participating in mentorships and internships that will prepare them for employment.^{24,25}
- Students will earn associate's degrees from the Community College of Rhode Island and gain experience in the fields of information technology, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing.²⁶
- During the 2016-2017 school year, P-TECH will be open to students in Newport, Providence, and Westerly Public School Districts.^{27,28}

Recommendations

- Provide students, particularly low-income and minority students, and their parents with easy-to-access information about opportunities to learn and earn credit outside of the traditional classroom and the benefits of these opportunities.
- Work to reduce inequities in access to dual enrollment, Advanced Coursework Network, ELOs, etc. by, for example, providing funding for transportation to learning sites.
- Offer incentives, such as grants, to districts and schools to partner with community agencies, higher education institutions, and businesses to offer innovative options.
- Provide regular, publicly available data on student participation and outcomes, including information on participation rates by student group, course type, and district and relationship of participation to key outcomes, including college enrollment, persistence, and completion.

References

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