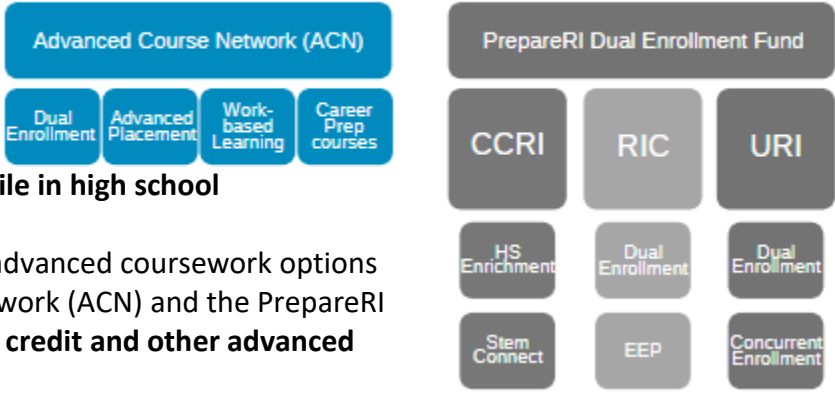




**STATE-LEVEL MECHANISMS FOR ADVANCED COURSEWORK**



TO: Local Education Agencies in Rhode Island  
FROM: Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)  
RE: **Opportunities for earning college credit and other advanced coursework while in high school**

With the start of the 2020/2021 school year we wanted to be in touch about the advanced coursework options available to students in Rhode Island, including through the Advanced Course Network (ACN) and the PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund, which covers a variety of **opportunities for earning college credit and other advanced coursework while in high school.**

This memo includes:

1. A summary of the two state-level mechanisms for dual enrollment, the ACN and the PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund;
2. A course grid that visually answers many questions about each type of course offering;
3. List of best practices for schools to increase the accessibility of advanced coursework for all students;
4. A list of frequently asked questions received by RIDE during the 18/19 cycle and their subsequent answers.

**Advanced Coursework Network | [ride.ri.gov/ACN](https://ride.ri.gov/ACN)**

The Advanced Coursework Network offers four types of courses. They are offered by colleges, schools and districts, community-based partners, and Department of Labor and Training (DLT) approved training programs, to help expand course options for students around the state. All courses in the ACN offer high school credit and many offer college credit or other postsecondary credentials. The school or district which the student attends is responsible for deciding the type of credit awarded (i.e. core credit, elective, etc.).

The four types of courses offered include:

1. *Work-based Learning* – Hands-on learning with industry professionals;
2. *Career Preparation* – Courses result in industry-recognized certificate or credentials;
3. *Dual Enrollment* – College courses offered by the private institutions of higher education in Rhode Island that result in college credit; and
4. *Advanced Placement* – College-level coursework that culminates in an AP exam. Many colleges accept high AP exam scores as college credit.

*The enrollment window for the 2021-21 school year will be open from May 1 to May 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 on <https://ride.gosignmeup.com/Public/Course/Browse>. In addition, there is a 2 week add/drop period for each course, beginning on the first day of*

the course. At that time, students who enrolled in May will have the opportunity to unenroll in the course and new students will have an opportunity to join.

**PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund | [ride.ri.gov/DualEnrollment](https://ride.ri.gov/DualEnrollment)**

Governor Raimondo’s PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund allows any public high school student to access dual enrollment courses with University of Rhode Island (URI), Rhode Island College (RIC), and Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI) at no cost to the student or their family. There are two types of dual enrollment accessed through this program: one is **dual enrollment** in which the student is taking a college course on the college campus; the other is called **concurrent** enrollment, in which the college course is taken on the high school campus and taught by a college-approved high school teacher. Each public college has both concurrent and dual enrollment opportunities available to students covered by the PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund, but each school has different names for their respective programs.

**2020/2021 Registration timelines for Dual Enrollment** *(these dates are subject to change)*

	CCRI		RIC		URI	
	<a href="#">For the most up to date information please visit this website</a>		<a href="#">For the most up to date information please visit this website</a>		<a href="#">For the most up to date information please visit this website</a>	
	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2020	Spring 2021	Fall 2020	Spring 2021
<b>Registration opens</b>	April 17	TBD	August 20	January 11	July 7	January 26
<b>Registration deadline</b>	September 8	TBD	September 4	January 25	September 15	February 1
<b>Last day to drop (no transcript designation)</b>	September 15	TBD	September 14	February 1	September 30	February 16
<b>Last day to drop ('W' on transcript)</b>	November 12	TBD	November 6	March 26	October 21	March 9



## Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI)

*STEM Connect:* STEM Connect is the name of CCRI's **concurrent** enrollment course options. High schools around the state can apply to offer these courses on the high school campus for high school credit. The course options available will vary by school. More information can be found here: <https://www.ccri.edu/oes/admissions/partnerships/HSCCRIpartnership.html>

*High School Enrichment:* High School students have access to CCRI's course catalog for **dual** enrollment courses. A list of recommended dual enrollment courses is available on [ride.ri.gov/dualenrollment](http://ride.ri.gov/dualenrollment). Any course paid for by the fund must be approved by the student's high school to count for elective or core high school credit. More information can be found here: <https://www.ccri.edu/oes/admissions/partnerships/highschoolenrichment.html>

*Running Start:* In addition to part-time dual enrollment courses, CCRI offers a **full-time dual enrollment option** that a student's home district is financially responsible for, called Running Start. Running Start is a full-time senior year dual enrollment program. Students who enroll in this program will not take courses at their high school in their twelfth-grade year, but rather take all of their courses for college credit at CCRI. Students are considered non-matriculated, meaning that any student who wishes to attend CCRI the year following their senior year will need to reapply as a degree applicant. Students apply in early spring of their junior year. More information can be found here: <https://www.ccri.edu/oes/admissions/partnerships/runningstart.html>



## Rhode Island College (RIC)

*Early Enrollment Program (EEP):* EEP is the name of RIC's **concurrent** enrollment course options. High schools around the state can apply to offer these courses on the high school campus for high school credit. The course options available will vary by school. More information can be found here: <http://www.ric.edu/eep/Pages/default.aspx>

*Dual Enrollment:* RIC does not have a branded name for their dual offerings, but high school students have access to RIC's course catalog for **dual** enrollment courses. Any course paid for by the fund must be approved by the student's high school to count for elective or core high school credit. More information can be found here: <http://www.ric.edu/eep/Pages/Dual-Enrollment.aspx>



## University of Rhode Island (URI)

*Concurrent:* URI does not have a branded name for their concurrent offerings but high schools around the state can apply to offer these courses on the high school campus for high school credit. The course options available will vary by school. More information can be found here: <https://web.uri.edu/ceps/concurrent-enrollment-program/>

*Dual Enrollment:* URI does not have a branded name for their dual offerings but more information can be found here: <https://web.uri.edu/ceps/dual-enrollment-registration/>

	Advanced Course Network				PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund						Full-time Dual Enroll.	
	Work-based Learning	Career Prep	AP Classes (one online course this year)	College Courses (Dual)	CCRI - STEM Connect (Concurrent)	CCRI - High School Enrichment (Dual)	RIC - Early Enrollment Program (Concurrent)	RIC - Dual enrollment (Dual)	URI Concurrent Enrollment (Concurrent)	URI Dual Enrollment (Dual)	CCRI Running Start	URI Early Enrollment
<b>I want to...</b>												
Location												
Take courses on a college campus.	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
Take courses online.	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Take courses at my high school.	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Take courses other than at my high school or a college.	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Program Type <sup>+</sup>												
Enroll in a full-time program for senior yr.	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
Take additional courses for HS credit and still be at my HS.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Take courses a la carte to complete my HS reqs without taking courses at my school.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Credit Type <sup>+</sup>												
Earn college credit.	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Possibly earn a career credential I can use now or after HS.	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Explore a new topic but not get college credit at this time.	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Costs												
/can pay for my transportation costs.	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
/can pay limited expenses for the course. (i.e. a test fee)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
/can pay all expenses for the course. (i.e. tuition)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓

+ The school or district approves or denies a student taking courses to complete graduation requirements. If necessary, appeal options exist at the district and state level.

## Making Advanced Coursework Accessible for All Students: Best Practices for Schools

1. **Collect and Disaggregate Data:** [Research](#) shows that low-income students, students of color, students with disabilities and language learners are all enrolled in advanced courses at [disproportionately](#) low rates in the United States. Collect data on participation and performance in advanced coursework at your school. Disaggregate data by student demographic characteristics to see if there are disparities in who is accessing this opportunity.
2. **Adopt Open Admissions Policies:** Selection methods for advanced coursework vary across the state, but [research](#) suggests that typical criteria like test scores or [teacher recommendations](#) can [disproportionately](#) limit access for traditionally underserved students. Consider adopting [open admission policies](#) in which any student who is interested can participate in AP classes; some schools have also instituted “opt out” programs in which all students are automatically registered for key AP classes.
3. **Encourage All Students to Engage in Advanced Coursework:** Just as every student can learn rigorous content with appropriate supports, all students can succeed in advanced coursework. In communication with students and colleagues about who should participate in advanced work, consider emphasizing qualities like work ethic and [growth mindset](#) instead of seeking students who are perceived as the “smartest.” Emphasize the following qualities of an advanced student:
  - a. Interested in challenging yourself
  - b. Interested in preparing for college
  - c. Interested in becoming a better critical thinking
  - d. Hard worker
  - e. Willing to use mistakes as an opportunity to learn
  - f. Belief that with practice, your academic skills will get stronger

This messaging is partially important because [research](#) suggests that students of color are less likely to believe that they belong in advanced courses or to perceive advanced classes as spaces for “white people.” Beyond adopting open enrollment policies, it is important to actively recruit students from all background to try advanced coursework.

4. **Set [clear and measurable goals](#) for increased participation and performance:** Goal setting is an important part of being purposeful about expanding advanced coursework access for all students. However, it is particularly important to think strategically about how you will increase the number of traditionally underserved students who enrolling in and passing advanced courses.
5. **Provide Additional Academic Supports:** Traditionally, advanced courses might be perceived as a placement for students who are already academically successful and thus need limited support. Instead, think of advanced courses as a space for all students to have the opportunity to gain college- and career-relevant skills. To enable every student to succeed in rigorous classes, it is important to continue providing, and even [augment, academic supports](#).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q1: What happens if a student takes a dual or concurrent course and receives a failing grade?**

**A:** If a student takes a dual or concurrent course and receives a failing grade, that grade stays on the student's permanent postsecondary transcript. This is an important consideration as it can jeopardize a student's application to colleges and certain types of financial aid. Students should consult with their schools to make sure that they are academically prepared to do well in college-level coursework.

### **Q2: Who pays for the textbooks required for dual enrollment students at CCRI, RIC, and URI?**

**A:** According to a [Commissioner's decision in 2016](#), full and part-time dual enrollment student costs and course materials (ex: art supplies) are to be covered by the local education agency (LEA). LEAs may choose to implement this policy in various ways; some choose to reimburse students for their textbook costs and some choose to purchase the textbooks outright and loan them to students for the year. Each institution has developed ways to allow for direct billing of districts for these textbooks to avoid any financial barrier to participation for students.

### **Q3: Who pays for tuition and fees for students in the Running Start and other full-time programs with CCRI?**

**A:** The Rhode Island Board of Education's [Regulations on Dual Enrollment](#) establish that districts pay **all** tuition and fees for students enrolled in full-time dual enrollment programs with CCRI. Students who would like to take summer courses after graduating from high school should contact the [office of enrollment services at CCRI](#).

### **Q4: Can homeschooled or private/parochial school students take advantage of the Advanced Course Network and/or dual and concurrent enrollment with the public institutions?**

**A:** Yes, these opportunities are available to home school and students enrolled in private schools. However, the state funding is designated for students enrolled in a public school and so these students would be responsible for the associated costs of taking a course, and they would have to register directly with the school or providers.

### **Q5: Are remedial courses at CCRI, RIC, or URI covered by the PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund?**

**A:** No. URI, RIC and CCRI all have remedial courses, but they are **not** covered by the dual enrollment fund. A course number that begins with "0" (zero) can typically identify these courses. If you have questions about whether a course is considered remedial, ask the college before registering for the course.

### **Q6: Can I take an ACN course if I have graduated from high school?**

**A:** The ACN was created for high school students to challenge themselves during high school and get ahead in college. Students who have graduated high school are no longer eligible to participate.

**Q7: Are these course credits transferable to other universities and colleges?**

**A:** All students earn transcript credit by taking college level courses in the ACN and through the PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund. Students are able to send transcripts to the institution they plan to attend full-time. Each institution of higher education that receives these transcripts will have their own policies and procedures for reviewing credit taken at other institutions. If a student is aware of an institution/program that they want to enroll in after high school, they should call that institution's admission office to obtain their credit transfer policy.

**Q8: Is there a course limit to the number of courses I can take as part of the ACN?**

**A:** We want students to be successful, so they are currently eligible to take: one course over the summer through the ACN and no more than two at a time during the fall and spring semesters.

**Q9: Is there a course limit to the number of courses I can take as part the PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund?**

**A:** Generally, students are limited to two courses per fall and spring semesters for dual enrollment coursework with RIC, URI, or CCRI, unless enrolled in a full-time program (example: Running Start). The PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund does not limit participation in concurrent enrollment coursework per semester, however local high schools may enforce their own policies.

**Q10: Does the PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund include summer coursework with RIC, URI, or CCRI?**

**A:** No, the PrepareRI Dual Enrollment Fund does not cover summer coursework with RIC, URI, or CCRI. Students can take these classes at CCRI, RIC, or URI but the student would be responsible for all tuition, fees, and registration.

**Q11: If I am taking classes on a college campus, do I have to take PE and Health?**

**A:** If a student is in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and is enrolled in a full time dual enrollment program where the courses are taken on a higher education institution campus (CCRI's Running Start program and URI's Early Enrollment program this year) they do **not** have to complete health and PE classes as determined by [recently passed legislation](#) in January of 2019.

For follow up questions please contact [advancedcoursework@ride.ri.gov](mailto:advancedcoursework@ride.ri.gov)