

Idaho State Board of Education Report on Dual Credit

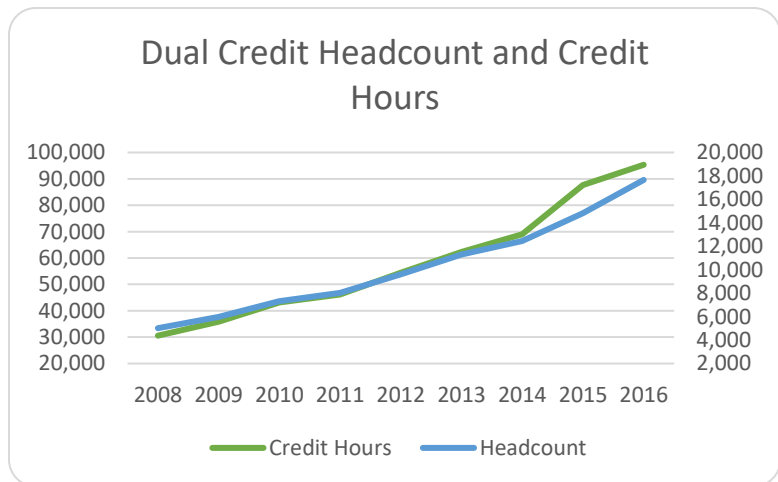
2017 – Updated 6/27/17



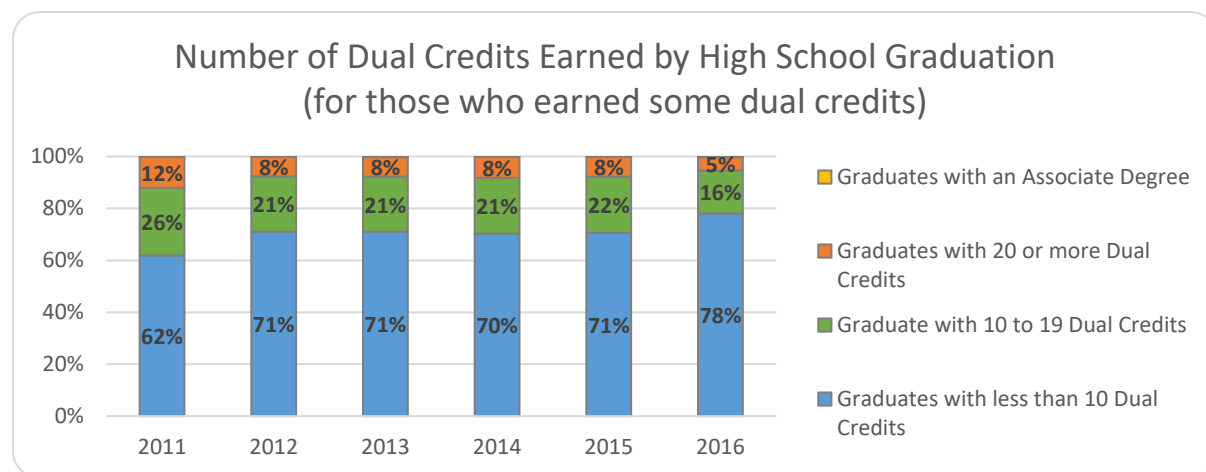
Dual credit courses provide Idaho high school students the opportunity to earn high school credit and postsecondary credit for a single course.¹ Idaho invests in dual credit education because evidence suggests that dual credit education encourages high school students to enroll in college and increases the likelihood of success in college.

Dual Credit in Idaho

Idaho has more dual credit students earning more college credits than ever before. From 2008 to 2016, the number of students taking dual credit classes grew 250 percent from approximately 5,000 to approximately 18,000. The number of credits earned grew 200 percent from approximately 30,000 to approximately 95,000.



While the number of credits earned overall has increased, the number of average credits earned has decreased. The share of high school graduates who graduate with some dual credit and more than 10 dual credit hours has decreased since 2011.



¹ Students can earn dual credit in both academic and career technical courses.

In 2011, 38 percent of graduates with some dual credit earned 10 or more dual credit hours. By 2016, that had fallen to 22 percent. This is likely due to expansion of the program – dual credit participation has expanded in scope but decreased in depth. Very few graduates (less than 1%) earn an Associate Degree upon high school graduation.

Prepares High School Students for College

Since 2011, Idaho high school students who have participated in dual credit courses earned higher grades in their first year of college than Idaho students who did not take dual credit courses. Graduates in 2015 who took dual credit courses averaged a 2.57 GPA in their first year of college while 2015 graduates who did not take dual credit courses averaged a 1.66 GPA.

Idaho high school dual credit participants enrolled in college at much higher rates than non-participating students. Two-thirds of 2015 high school graduates with dual credit courses enrolled in college within one year of graduation compared to 39 percent of 2015 high school graduates without any dual credit courses.

Increases the Likelihood of Success as College Students

Idaho students who took dual credit courses while in high school had significantly higher college retention rates from their first year to their second year at a postsecondary institution. Across all years, more than 80 percent of dual credit students returned to college their second year. Across all years, the retention rate for non-dual credit students was around 70 percent.

Summary

Dual credit students earn higher grades when attending college and continue their college careers at higher rates than students who do not take advantage of dual credit courses while in high school.

*These data were analyzed using the Educational Analytics System of Idaho (EASI) from 2011 through 2016.

