

Charge: Dual Enrollment and Early College

Background: Act 77—An act relating to encouraging flexible pathways to secondary school completion-- was enacted in 2013. The legislation authorized a flexible pathways initiative that was, among other things, designed to promote opportunities for Vermont students to achieve postsecondary readiness through high-quality educational experiences that acknowledge individual goals, learning styles, and abilities and to increase the rates of postsecondary continuation. Among the tools authorized to help achieve these goals were personal learning plans, dual enrollment, and early college.

The Prek-16 Council will review the implementation of dual enrollment and early college to assess the extent to which the programs are achieving the goals of Act 77, identify successful partnerships and programs (what is working) as well as barriers to successful implementation. This review will be done with a focus on equity and the differing challenges of delivering these programs in rural and urban settings.

Possible questions to explore--

1. What are the goals of Act 77?
2. Who is currently participating and what outcomes are being observed?
3. Are there national models that are viewed as being particularly effective? What does research tell us about successful dual enrollment programs?
4. What is working in Vermont and where? Are there lessons to be learned that can be replicated?
5. What is the relationship between personalized learning plans and access to dual enrollment and early college?
6. Are dual enrollment credits universally accepted by institutions of higher education?
7. Does Early College lead to a reduction in the cost of obtaining a postsecondary degree?
8. Do dual enrollment courses have the same academic rigor as other advanced courses that are available in the school?
9. What barriers, if any, prevent students from participating in dual enrollment or early college?
10. Do we have the right funding model?