



INCREASING EQUITABLE ACCESS AND SUCCESS IN DUAL CREDIT

Invest Forward Convening: July 2022 Session Recap



ABOUT THE CONVENING

In **July 2022**, Invest Forward held a convening in Nashville, Tennessee, bringing together **leaders from 25 districts** to share ideas, learn from one another, and prioritize stimulus funding to support postsecondary pathway programs in their schools.

Research has shown that high-quality postsecondary education and training is the ticket to **long-term opportunity**. But since the pandemic began, we have seen declines in high school graduation rates, drops in direct college enrollment, a youth unemployment rate that peaked higher than it has in decades, and an education system that is still struggling to find a new “normal.”

Many schools have done tremendous work and invested heavily in strengthening and expanding their efforts to support students’ ability to obtain the training and credentials necessary to be successful beyond high school. **Invest Forward** is committed to recognizing and sharing those efforts widely, to build momentum and support for this important work.

WHY SHOULD WE INCREASE EQUITABLE ACCESS AND SUCCESS IN DUAL CREDIT?

Research has shown that students who participate in dual enrollment:

- Are more likely to meet college readiness benchmarks
- Are more likely to enroll in college shortly after high school graduation
- Are less likely to be placed into remedial English or mathematics courses
- Have higher first-year grade point averages
- Have higher second-year retention rates
- Have higher four- and six-year college completion rates
- Have a shorter average time to bachelor's degree completion for those completing in six years or less

WHAT ARE THE KEY PILLARS FOR DUAL CREDIT PARTNERSHIPS?

- **Equity Goal & Public Reporting:** Leverage student-level data to help schools identify students with the potential to succeed in advanced courses and ensure they are enrolling.
- **Program Integrity & Credit Transfer:** Collaborate with institutions of higher education to develop robust pathway opportunities for students into college and career.
- **Finance:** Eliminate course costs including tuition, fees, and books for current high school students.
- **Course Access & Availability:** Developing equity-minded eligibility criteria for advanced coursework models to provide the greatest access to students who have the ability to succeed.
- **Instructor Capacity:** Provide teachers, counselors, and staff with the training and professional development to ensure they are credentialed to teach these courses.
- **Navigational Supports:** Provide high-quality advising and holistic supports to students and their families.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Increasing Equitable Access and Success in Dual Enrollment - Slide Deck](#)
- [The Work of Phoenix Union - Slide Deck](#)
- [Unlocking Potential Report](#)
- [ESSER Guidance for School Staffing, Spending, and Scheduling](#)
- [Blueprint on Expanding Access to Postsecondary Opportunities](#)
- [ESSER Half-Time Review and Self-Assessment Tracker](#)



EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES THAT INCREASE EQUITABLE ACCESS AND SUCCESS IN DUAL CREDIT



PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Presenters: **Thea Andrade**, Chief Academic Officer, Phoenix Union High School District and **Tony Camp**, Executive Director for Teaching & Learning, Phoenix Union High School District

Phoenix Union High School District (PXU) is one of five high school-only districts surrounding the Phoenix city center, serving a minority-majority student population. PXU leaders conducted multiple listening sessions and surveys with various stakeholder groups to identify the specific needs of the local community in light of the pandemic as well as the best ways to direct resources to meet those needs. Federal COVID aid spending decisions are tied to the 10 Commitments outlined in the district's Strategic Plan. The first such commitment is to ensure that **students are College, Career and Life Ready Graduates**.

In order to accomplish this goal, Phoenix Union recognized that they needed to **expand access to dual enrollment in more schools**, to provide more students with the ability to earn college credit while working toward their diploma. In order to accomplish this, PXU is working to build and scale a pipeline of educators willing to participate in certification to lead those dual enrollment programs. **PXU implemented the following initiatives:**

- Created a **full-time Dual Enrollment Coordinator** who is dedicated to coordination, partnership, and reporting of the dual enrollment program, streamlining process with PXU and community colleges and ensuring alignment of pathways and school academies
- **Provided incentives** to attract qualified instructors by offering stipends for teachers for teaching
- **Developed and deployed surveys** to educator staff to assess interest in participation of dual enrollment instructional certification, clearly outlining necessary qualifications to ensure applicant pipeline is qualified
- **Offered peer tutoring and support**, whereby certified PXU teachers provide guidance and supports to fellow educators currently participating in certification process