

To: Directors of Education
Council of Ontario Directors of Education
College Presidents
Colleges Ontario
Regional Offices, Ministry of Education
Regional and Field Offices, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities

From: School College Work Initiative

Date: November 8, 2012

Subject: School College Work Initiative Request for Proposals -- 2013-16

The School College Work Initiative (SCWI) is once again inviting joint applications from colleges of applied arts and technology and district school boards for collaborative Dual Credit programs and activities for the 2013-16 academic years. Please forward this memorandum to the appropriate staff in your organization. As in the past, proposals must be submitted by SCWI Regional Planning Teams. Proposals will be submitted online. Detailed requirements can be found at www.scwi.ca.

Building and sustaining better linkages between the college system and the secondary system to support expanded and improved transitions by secondary students to postsecondary education is a strategic goal for the Government of Ontario and a high priority for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The overarching goal for the Student Success/Learning to 18 Strategy is to have increased numbers of students graduating from high school. Dual Credit learning opportunities help to achieve this goal through their primary focus on those students facing challenges in graduating.

Since its inception in 1997, the SCWI has contributed to the goal of increasing the number of students who graduate from secondary school and providing a seamless transition from secondary school to postsecondary education by supporting collaborative activities and programs, including:

- Linking Dual Credit teachers in colleges and secondary schools through professional learning opportunities, providing hands-on college experiences for grade 9-12 students,
- approving and monitoring Dual Credit programs, including Level 1 apprenticeships and "School Within a College" programs.

Dual Credit Programs

The primary focus of Dual Credit programs continues to be on those students facing challenges in graduating. This includes disengaged and underachieving students under the age of 21, who have the potential to succeed at college but who are at risk of not graduating from high school, and students who have left high school before graduating, including students participating in boards' re-engagement initiatives. Proposals are also

encouraged for Dual Credit learning opportunities for students in Specialist High Skills Major programs as well as for students in college-delivered Level 1 OYAP programs.

Dual Credit Policy and Implementation October 2010 (http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfunding/memos/november2010/DualCredit_Implement2010.pdf) contains the relevant policy and procedural details that are to be followed in the implementation of Dual Credit programs. Of particular importance are the sections on student selection, the requirement to assign a dual credit teacher for college-delivered programs, and the policy on assessment and evaluation in those programs.

Funding and Accountability

Funding will be contingent upon successful fulfilment of prior program commitments, and funds being appropriated by the Ontario Legislature, as per current practice. This RFP continues the use of a three-year planning time frame. The forecasts for 2014-15 and 2015-16 are required for planning purposes. Approvals for the second and third year will be made annually.

Regional Planning Teams will be required to meet reporting requirements including SMART goals, and data and financial reports as outlined in *School College Work Initiative (SCWI), Reporting, Approval & Monitoring Process for 2012-2013 School Year.*

Highlights from 2011-12

In 2011-12, 15,000 students were provided with expanded learning opportunities through 455 approved Dual Credit programs. Approximately 2000 students participated in 36 “School Within a College” programs involving 21 colleges and 41 boards. New this year, RPTs held 8 Summer School Within a College programs with 150 student participants. Sixteen Regional Planning Teams received SCWI approval for 227 activities and 99 regional forums. Rubrics were developed and used to make decisions about approval of Dual Credits, Activities and Forums. The program’s provincial website www.gotocollege.ca and a password access website (www.scwi.ca) continue to support the promotion and delivery of the Dual Credit program.

For sixteen years, the School College Work Initiative has continued to bring college and school board staff together to develop Dual Credit programs, activities and forums that increase the engagement of students in their secondary school studies and facilitate the transition to postsecondary learning for thousands of Ontario students. The growth of the initiative could not have occurred without the commitment and vision of school board and college leaders across this province.

Frank Kelly,
SCWI Project Manager