



Advisory

The Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) is an advisory and consultative organization composed of the CEOs of each of the 72 District School Boards in Ontario; Public, Catholic and French Language.

School College Work Initiative

What do I need to know about the School College Work Initiative?

The School College Work Initiative (SCWI) is a strategic goal and priority for the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The SCWI is designed to build and sustain better linkages between the college system and the secondary school system while increasing and improving transitions of secondary students to college. As part of the Student Success/Learning to 18 strategy, the SCWI is designed to increase the number of students graduating from secondary school, with the primary focus on students who face the biggest challenges in secondary school.

The SCWI funds activities, programs and forums intended to provide a seamless transition from secondary school to college. These projects include:

- aligning curriculum between secondary schools and colleges;
- articulating pathways to college and apprenticeship programs for students;
- increasing understanding of educational and career opportunities for students offered by colleges as a post-secondary destination; and
- linking teachers in college and secondary settings through discussion seminars, professional development, and exchange and internship opportunities.

In 2005-06, the SCWI mandate was extended to include the funding of programs designed to expand the availability of dual credit programs involving the two systems. It is significant to note that full participation in the SCWI by all 24 colleges and 70 eligible school boards was attained in 2007-08 and continues to the present.



School College Work Initiative

A cooperative effort of the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and the Committee of College Presidents (COP), the SCWI is jointly funded by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The initiative is advised and directed by the Co-Management Team made up of directors of education, college presidents, and representatives from the two ministries, along with the project manager and project officer from CODE.



What do I need to know about dual credit programs?

Dual credit programs involve the enrolment of carefully-selected secondary school students in college-level courses. The primary focus is on supporting students who face the greatest challenges to graduating. Students who meet the college-level standards in these courses will be granted OSSD credits as well as college credits. Dual credit college-level courses may be delivered through a variety of approaches, and may be offered on college campuses or provided at secondary school locations. Eligible students may take up to four non-compulsory OSSD credits through this program. Approved dual credit programs also include students in Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) programs and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Programs (OYAP). Dual credit programs are based on partnerships, collaboration and accountability between school boards and public post-secondary institutions.

What do I need to know about the School Within A College (SWAC) program?

The School Within A College approach has become a very successful element of the SCWI. SWAC is an arrangement between a school board and a college in which space is provided on the college campus for a class or classes of students to work on regular OSSD courses. These OSSD courses are taught by a secondary school teacher provided by the school board. Funding for accommodation and special transportation is typically provided by the SCWI. Participation in the SWAC program offers students greater access to dual credit programs and assists with transitions to college.

Effective SCWI structures:

SCWI forums are one-day conferences or meetings of teachers and college instructors that promote shared planning and professional learning. SCWI activities often involve large numbers of students and/or parents who visit their local college for a day-long session or for several days in a residential experience. Activities also include long-term projects involving secondary teachers and college faculty members as they work to align secondary and college programs, develop specific dual credit programs, or plan marketing strategies to attract students and parents to learn more about post-secondary opportunities. Forums and activities continue to be a funding priority for SCWI when focused on:

- curriculum alignment and pathways to college;
- teacher staff development, pre-service teacher preparation and teacher internships; and
- awareness and promotion of college programs beyond college outreach programs currently in place.

What does the Ministry of Education say about the SCWI?

On November 8, 2010, the Deputy Minister of Education released the document, *Dual Credit Policy and Implementation 2010*. The cover memorandum and policy direction provides details about dual credit programs including assessment and evaluation, delivery approaches, student selection, the role of secondary school dual credit teachers, and much more. It is anticipated that this memo will be a regular communication. There are a number of Ministry documents and publications from Student Success/Learning to 18 which support the delivery of dual credit programs and offer instructional strategies for students who face challenges to secondary school graduation.

Board Requirements

Boards and schools are required to:

- plan and deliver the supports and services required to foster student success in dual credit learning opportunities;
- coordinate efforts with public post-secondary institutions to reduce systemic barriers and provide student access to appropriate supports and services as they move between institutions;
- coordinate the exchange of academic progress information (marks and attendance) between colleges and secondary schools to support student success;
- ensure that no tuition fees or apprenticeship classroom fees are charged to students; and
- guarantee that there is no adverse impact on school boards or public post-secondary institutions from their participation in dual credit programs.

Entry into the dual credit program is guided through the Student Success Team at the school or board level and is administered at the local level.

Across the province, 16 Regional Planning Teams (RPTs) provide support and direction for the SCWI programs in their region. These RPTs include membership from all local school boards, one or more colleges and, in many cases, other interested parties. RPTs work with both English-language and French-language colleges and school boards.

Funding for the SCWI is provided to either the designated school board or college in accordance with contracts that are approved annually.

There are a number of Ministry documents and publications from Student Success/Learning to 18 which support the delivery of dual credit programs



Web Resources

English:

www.gotocollege.ca

www.scwi.ca

French:

www.alleraucollege.ca

www.iject.ca

Supervisory officers are expected to:

- seek updates on their board's progress with SCWI activities and dual credit programs;
- monitor that their students are gaining access to dual credit programs and are meeting success in these programs;
- attend RPT meetings as appropriate;
- participate in related forums and activities, and in visits to dual credit programs; and
- engage in regular conversations with colleagues from the SCWI colleges.

The support of senior leaders is an essential key to success with SCWI programming. It is also important that supervisory officers:

- review the student achievement data which is collected annually by the RPTs, based on the June 30th Dual Credit Student Data Report;
- support the SMART goals developed by the RPT as requested by the Ministry of Education; and
- examine their board's financial data which is collected by the RPTs based on year-end final expenditure reports.

If as a supervisory officer, I require more information, what should I do?

- The SCWI issues its comprehensive newsletter annually. It is mailed in hard copy to every school board office and is available online. In addition, the new websites for students and parents [www.gotocollege.ca and www.alleraucollege.ca] are most informative. Educators will also benefit from the websites designed specifically for their use [www.scwi.ca and www.iject.ca].
- The SCWI Symposium held each spring provides an excellent opportunity to learn about the benefits of SCWI programs and activities and to gain ideas for future programs that will benefit students.
- Contact CODE to request further information and/or be connected to the SCWI Project Manager and/or CODE Project Officer.

