Giving Students a Chance: Dual Enrollment and College Access Pathways.

This session presented a strong support and evidence of the benefits of Dual Enrollment. Additionally, it was discussed the legislative efforts to expand and reform dual enrollment so that all students have the opportunity to access college early.

There are several colleges in the Bay 10 group of colleges that support and have developed an extensive Dual Enrollment program in partnership with school districts. The main emphasis in the Dual Enrollment has been to address the students’ college skill gaps.

Gateway to College (Laney)
- Motivation to persist and to pursue a career
- Confidence in one’s academic skills.
- Accelerated path to college.

Students have shown to do as well or better in persistence and graduating rate.

Early College Academy (Gavilan)
- Pathway to overcome barriers
- Non-college going culture, language, family employment pressures, navigating system and follow processes.
- Lack of clear purpose.
- Lack of accelerated pathways to careers.

Benefits are augmented with SSSP alignment with local School Districts.
- Students are involved in enrollment discussions and impacts with college instructor
- Collaboration between High School and College faculty
- Streamline student services.
- High school students involved in college activities.
- CTE surveys for career inventory
- Workshops with career and high school counselors.

Dual enrollment provides an opportunity for students to “try out” college and learn the benefits of postsecondary work and degrees while gaining confidence and knowledge needed to successfully master college work and understand its connection to helping them realize their goals and careers. Given that many dual enrollment students from underrepresented student populations or who are first-generational college goers need support to prepare academically and socially, many programs provide a comprehensive set of support services to ensure that students are successful.

“This is my favorite bill of the year,” Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen, R-Modesto, said Wednesday at an education committee hearing on Assembly Bill 1451. “It’s a game changer for our children who are seeking greater educational opportunities.”
State law already allows high school students to take community college classes under concurrent, or dual, enrollment agreements. But many of those courses are narrowly focused, allowing students to make up credits from a flunked course, for instance, or providing access to Advanced Placement or other classes that may not be offered at their high school.

AB 1451, authored by Chris Holden, D-Pasadena, is designed to widen the array of concurrent enrollment courses available to students and create a more streamlined way to blend the courses with what’s available at high schools. The bill – of which Olsen is a co-author – allows high schools and community colleges to enter into formal program partnerships. Such formalized agreements will help campuses better coordinate offerings and expand availability of academic and career technical courses that provide students with work experience, bill proponents said.

“You move away from ‘one-off’ course taking to developing something that’s more akin to a pathway” to college and career programs, said Vincent Stewart, vice chancellor for governmental relations at the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.