Scope of Work: Dual Credit

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COUNCIL

Program Evaluation Topic:
Dual Credit

Description of Program:
The South Dakota Dual Credit program provides funding for high school students (juniors and seniors) to enroll in postsecondary coursework at South Dakota universities or technical institutes, which allows students to earn credits for their high school diploma and postsecondary degree or certificate at the same time. Per SDCL 13-28.37.1, the student pays thirty-three and three tenths percent and the state pays sixty-six and seven tenths percent of the total high school dual credit tuition rate.

The South Dakota Dual Credit program has three main goals:
1. Make college more affordable/equitable;
2. Prepare students for post-secondary success; and
3. Increase post-secondary completion.

Scope of Work:

Question 1: What is the financial impact of South Dakota's Dual Credit program?

Objective 1:	To determine funding options for the dual credit program.
Task #1	Analyze South Dakota's funding methodology.
Task #2	Identify and review other regional state's funding methodologies.
Task #3	Apply identified funding methodologies to create funding scenarios.
Objective 2:	To determine the financial impact of dual credit on secondary programs in public school districts over the past 5 years (FY2015-FY2019).
Task #1	Analyze financial impacts on secondary programs in public school districts.
Task #2	Conduct a survey of public school districts.
Objective 3:	To determine the financial impact of dual credit on postsecondary institutions over the past 5 years (FY2015-FY2019).
Task #1	Analyze financial impacts on the technical institutes and Board of Regents Institutions.
Objective 4:	To project the growth of the dual credit program over the next 5 years.
Task #1	Analyze actual dual credit enrollment.
Task #2	Identify factors that may be used to project dual credit enrollment.
Task #3	Project technical institute and Board of Regents tuition rates.

Question 2: What courses are offered and taken through South Dakota's Dual Credit program?

Objective 1:	To identify dual credit courses offered and taken by students since inception of the program.
Task #1	Identify and analyze all dual credit courses offered by technical institutes and Board of Regents institutions.
Task #2	Identify and analyze all dual credit courses taken by students at technical institutes and Board of Regents institutions.
Task #3	Analyze how many postsecondary credits students are earning through dual credit.

Task #4	Analyze dual credit course passage rates.	
Task #5	Identify, review and compare other regional state's dual credit course offerings.	
Objective 2:	To identify student information of those who have taken dual credit courses since inception of the program.	
Task #1	Analyze student demographics.	
Task #2	Analyze secondary school type (public, private, etc.) and location.	

Question 3: Does dual credit completion improve student outcomes?

Objective 1:	To determine if the matriculation rate goal is being met for students who have taken dual credit courses.
Task #1	Identify the matriculation rate goal for technical institutes and Board of Regents institutions for dual credit students.
Task #2	Analyze matriculation rates for technical institutes and Board of Regents institutions.
Task #3	Identify how many students who took dual credit courses attend postsecondary education out-of-state or do not attend postsecondary education.
Objective 2:	To determine if the retention rate goal is being met for students who have taken dual credit courses.
Task #1	Identify the retention rate goal for technical institutes and Board of Regents institutions for dual credit students.
Task #2	Analyze retention rates for technical institutes and Board of Regents institutions.