

# Funding and Strengthening Dual Credit to Improve Post- Secondary Student Outcomes

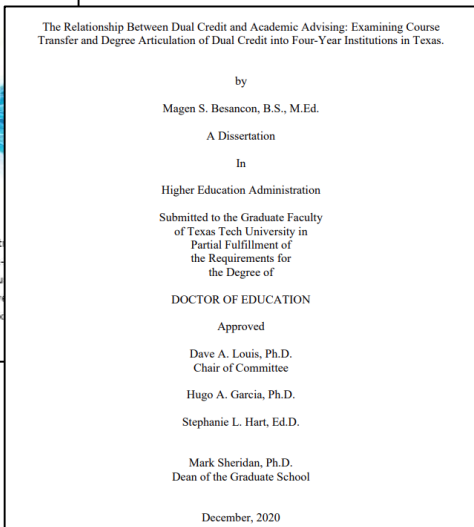
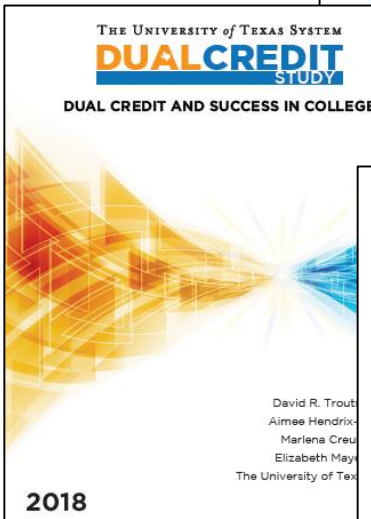
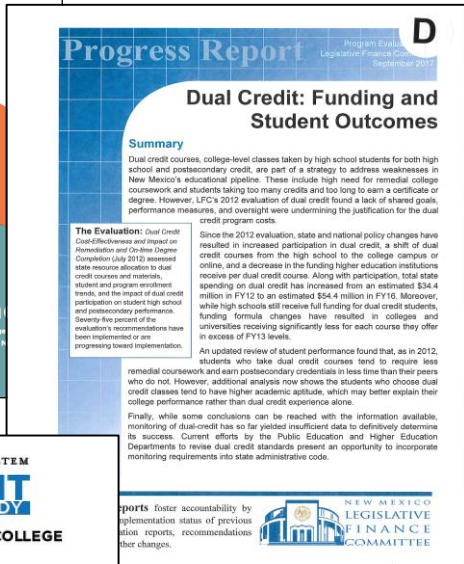
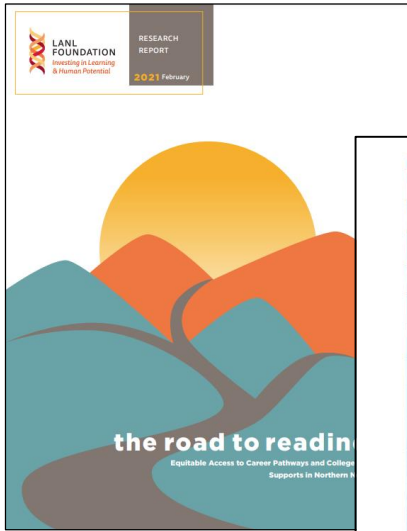
**NM Legislative Finance Committee  
Higher Education Subcommittee**

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Vice President of Career Pathways  
and Advocacy**



# Dual Credit Can Play A Vital Role In Improving Post-Secondary Student Outcomes In New Mexico



Fund Dual Credit Appropriately With Additional Requirements

Ensure Greater Collaboration Across Pre-K Through 14/16 System

Support Comprehensive College and Career Pathways, Including in Tribal and Rural Communities



# Multiple Benefits of Dual Credit

- Accelerate learning opportunities
- Expose students to college level faculty / coursework
- 95% of NNM high schools offer dual credit
- Schools want to expand

- Close workforce gaps
- Increases graduation rates for underrepresented students
- Efficiency in delivery
- 1 - 2 additional years in the workforce at higher pay
- Reduces college debt



- Less remedial coursework
- Earn postsecondary credentials sooner

- Increased college enrollment
- Skills to succeed in college
- Higher GPAs
- Increased retention and completion
- 5:1 monetary benefit

# Challenges Prevent Maximizing the Full Benefit of Dual Credit

- Lack of access to academic preparation
- Courses not aligned to career pathway / not contributing toward a credential or degree.
- COVID-19 pandemic
- Colleges / universities receive significantly less funding for dual credit courses
- Lack of shared goals, performance measures and oversight
- Effect of higher academic aptitude
- Quality and rigor of dual credit courses
- Lower levels of academic preparation perpetuate inequities
- Barriers facing lower income and students of color
- Advisors and counselors lack supports and information

# What We Heard from School Leaders And Counselors

*“We are so small and rural. It takes a lot of money to send our students to college visits and fairs. We need transportation support [and] a full-time college and career readiness coach.”*

*“We need another FTE to provide our kids with dual credit opportunities..”*



*“many of our students didn’t qualify to take dual credit based on their Accuplacer scores.”*

*“We need more funding for support staff like counselors.”*

*“We work to prepare our students in post-secondary education. We make sure their Next Step Plans are done each year. We have lots of conversations with our students. Dual credit as well.”*

A black and white photograph of graduates in black gowns celebrating. Several graduates are visible, some with their arms raised and caps tossed into the air. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**Recommendation 1:  
Adequately Fund Higher Education Institutions and Include  
Additional Dual Credit Program Requirements.**

## **Recommendation 1: Adequately fund higher education institutions and include additional dual credit program requirements**

- **Three year, \$10 million / year pilot to fund higher education institutions outside funding formula**
- **Fund dual credit courses tied to progression toward / completion of college credential:**
  - **Career and Technical Education Pathway Sequences**
  - **Early College High School Programs of Study**
  - **Within core general educational course transfer curriculum approved by HED or aligned with individual student's meta-major, major or certificate path**
- **Evaluate student outcomes for five years (into college and/or career)**

**Recommendation 2:  
Ensure Greater Collaboration Across Pre-K Through 14/16  
System.**



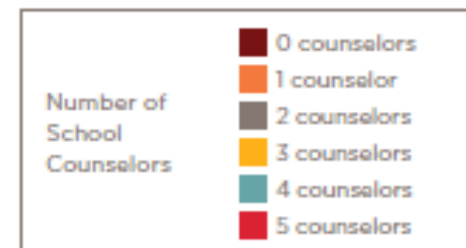
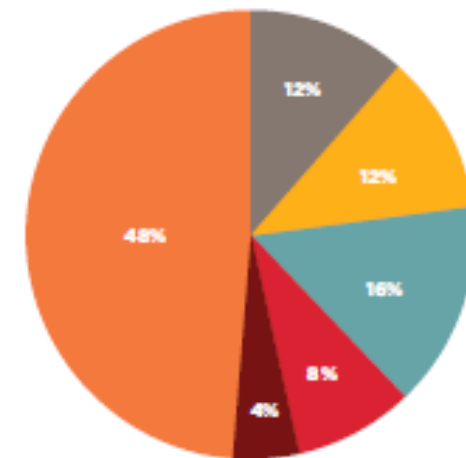
**LANL  
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*Investing in Learning  
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# Particular Need To Improve Student Advising, Professional Development and Course Coordination

- **Value of adequate student support**
- **Lack of counselors in Northern New Mexico high schools**
- **Need for training / professional development for counselors and advisors**
- **Importance of coordination of dual credit courses**

[ FIGURE 5 ]  
Percentage of Schools with Counselors (N=25)



## Recommendation 2: Ensure Greater Collaboration Across Pre-K Through 14/16 System

- **Support blended advising approach**
- **Provide joint professional development**
- **Require MOU between district and college to ensure blended advising, joint PD, course articulation and degree alignment**



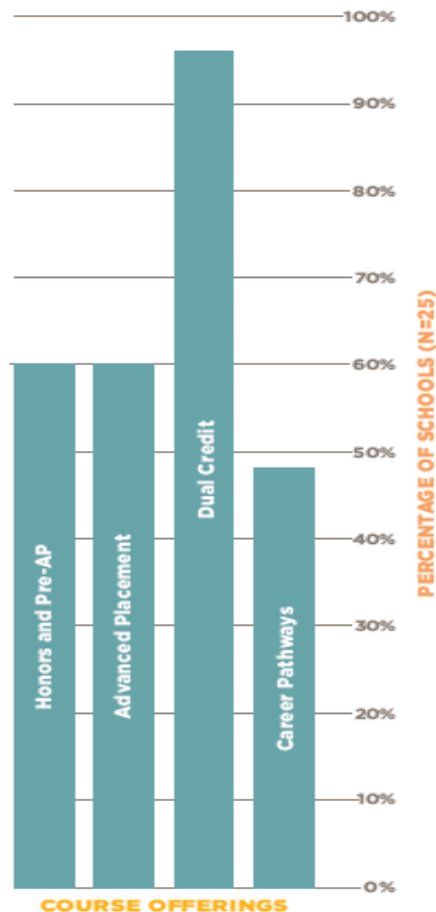
Photo Credit: New Mexico Highlands University



**Recommendation 3:  
Support Districts and Schools in Implementing  
Comprehensive College and Career Pathways, Including in  
Tribal and Rural Communities**

# Barriers to Accessing Career Pathways, Work-Based Learning and Academic Preparation

| TABLE 3 |  
Percentage of Participant Schools  
Offering College and Career  
Support Courses



- **52% of Northern New Mexico high schools do not offer career pathways**
- **40% of Northern New Mexico high schools do not offer AP, Pre-AP or Honors courses**
- **Insufficient and inconsistent funding**
- **BIE-funded high schools aren't eligible for Next Gen CTE funding**
- **Limited work-based learning opportunities in Northern New Mexico**

## Recommendation 3: Support Districts and Schools in Implementing Comprehensive College and Career Pathways, Including in Tribal and Rural Communities

- Provide sufficient funding to support integrated academic preparation, personalized supports, career pathways and work-based learning
- Ensure professional development to school leaders and teachers for college and career preparation
- Amend statute so BIE-funded high schools eligible for Next Gen CTE funding
- Explore Work-Based Learning tax credit



**THANK YOU!**

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