



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

## District of Columbia Dual Enrollment Regulations Program Tuition Guidance

### Authority

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) has the authority to formulate and promulgate rules necessary to carry out its functions for Dual Enrollment Programs pursuant to section 3(b)(11) of the District of Columbia State Education Office Establishment Act of 2000, effective October 21, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-176; D.C. Official Code § 38-2602(b)(11) (2001 ed. & 2012 Supp.)).

### Intent

The purpose of the District of Columbia Dual Enrollment Regulations,<sup>1</sup> as stated in the *DC Register*,<sup>2</sup> was “to establish uniform guidelines in the District of Columbia for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to provide high school students with the opportunity concurrently to enroll in, and receive dual academic credit for, postsecondary courses taken on a college campus.”

Based on this stated purpose, the regulations were intended to guide implementation of Dual Enrollment Programs offered by LEAs *in partnership* with institutions of higher education (IHE) during a secondary academic school year. These regulations were not intended to guide the use of dual enrollment options by an individual student (or their parents) outside of a formal partnership agreement between an LEA and IHE, nor were they intended to guide an IHE’s acceptance or relationship with an individual applicant/student outside of a formal dual enrollment program partnership agreement.

### Parameters

OSSE promotes LEA-based dual enrollment programs as one avenue for students to experience the academic rigor of college courses and potentially increase college readiness. OSSE also acknowledges that all students are welcome to independently pursue rigorous coursework (including but not limited to dual enrollment) outside of school time. However, these individual arrangements do not fall under the framework created in these regulations and therefore any limitations would not apply, including an IHE’s ability to charge students tuition. Similarly, the

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<sup>1</sup> DCMR 5-A2400 <https://www.dcregs.dc.gov/Common/DCMR/RuleList.aspx?ChapterNum=5-A24>

<sup>2</sup> 59 DCR 1141 (September 28, 2012).

framework described in the regulations was not intended to apply for students not enrolled in a public or public charter LEA (e.g., homeschool or private school).

Taken as a whole, the partnership agreements are a key element of the framework established in the regulations for dual enrollment programs offered through LEA and IHE partnerships. OSSE has the authority to advise on and approve the partnership agreements, but it is each partner's responsibility to ensure the agreement clearly defines the program components and eligible participants.