

Dual Credit Program Guidelines

Ministry of Education

September 2025

Periodic revisions to this document may be made based on current government priorities.

Further information can be found in [Dual Credit Programs: Policy and Program Requirements \(ontario.ca\)](#).

Purpose of this Guideline

The Dual Credit Guidelines provide key information to support Regional Planning Team (RPT) members to plan, develop and implement Activities, Forums, and Dual Credit programs. Specifically, this document provides details on responsibilities, funding eligibility and parameters for the development and implementation of programs to ensure that they are aligned with government directions, policies, and priorities. The Guidelines help RPTs, consisting of representatives of school boards, colleges of applied arts and technology, non-college training delivery agents (TDAs), and appropriate community partners, including Indigenous Institutes in partnership with colleges, to make informed decisions about proposing, planning, and implementing relevant programs for eligible students.

Activities, Forums, and Dual Credit programs are intended to support eligible English-language and French-language school students in Ontario, including Indigenous students, students with special needs, and students in rural and northern communities, in completing their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and making a successful transition to a college and/or apprenticeship program. In addition to this document, please refer to [Dual Credit Programs: Policy and Program Requirements \(ontario.ca\)](https://edcs.tcu.gov.on.ca/Main).

Funding is contingent upon successful fulfilment of prior program commitments and funds being appropriated by the Ontario Legislature and further allocated to this specific program, as per current practice.

Regional Planning Teams (RPTs)

Across the province, 13 English language and three French language RPTs submit program details through the Ministry of Education's (EDU's) Enhanced Data Collection Solution (EDCS) (<https://edcs.tcu.gov.on.ca/Main>). Proposed items in EDCS are not to exceed the total funding allocation outlined in the Project Budget and are assumed to be approved upon sign off. Each RPT is responsible for the overall coordination of approved Activities, Forums and Dual Credit programs in their region based on the guidelines stated in this document. RPTs are expected to meet regularly to undertake a continuous review of programs throughout the year to ensure they meet local needs and government priorities. RPTs are expected to develop and maintain Terms of Reference to guide their operation and ensure that they are made available to all RPT members. In addition, RPTs are encouraged to share RPT leadership responsibilities between colleges and district school boards.

RPTs will be eligible for funding to cover:

- administration of approved Dual Credit funding
- program and activity coordination
- meetings (to be held virtually when appropriate)
- representation at Dual Credit meetings, as required
- data gathering and report writing
- submission of all reports by deadlines specified in the contract between the RPT and EDU
- financial services institution administration fees

As has been the case in the past, actual expenditures for approved projects will be reviewed by the Dual Credit team at the Ministry of Education (EDU). RPTs should retain complete records and receipts for seven years to confirm the amounts reported. Random audits may be conducted by EDU.

Activities and Forums:

Activities and Forums should reach beyond college outreach programs currently in place and should introduce students and parents to the various pathways and learning environments students can explore, including in the skilled trades. Activities will include hands-on activities for students and accompanying teachers, at the college or secondary school.

Each RPT will deliver a Forum designed for school board staff and college Dual Credit faculty directly involved in Dual Credit delivery – and if funds allow, for secondary school teachers, school support staff, etc.

Details regarding eligible costs for activities and forums can be found in the [Activity & Forum Benchmarks 25-26](#) Funding document.

Dual Credit Programs:

Appropriate student selection, course selection and delivery models that best match the needs of eligible students are key areas of focus for Dual Credit programs. School Within a College (SWAC) programs for students in the primary target group (PTG), programs for Adult Dual Credit students, and Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training programs for apprentices with Registered Training Agreements (RTAs) remain priorities for Dual Credit programs. Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) students and Specialist High Skills Majors (SHSM) students are also encouraged.

Student selection criteria for adolescent Dual Credit programs are described in [Dual Credit Programs: Policy and Program Requirements \(ontario.ca\)](#).

Dual Credit programs using funding (outlined below in “Targeted Funding” section) for targeting ministry-identified labour market needs are open to any qualified secondary school student.

RPTs are to ensure that documentation is maintained regarding criteria used for selection of individual students, as outlined in the Appendix: Selection Criteria for Admission to Dual Credit Programs of the policy document (e.g., an email from school staff, from a Student Success Team to a Dual Credit board contact listing the names of recommended students, a board-generated student selection checklist or a Dual Credit program application form). Details regarding eligible costs for Dual Credit programs can be found in the [Dual Credit Benchmarks 25-26](#) Funding document.

To maximize the number of students for whom a Dual Credit opportunity may be available, RPTs are encouraged to consider proposals for any additional supports with this goal in mind.

Developing Dual Credit Program Proposals

All Dual Credit programs:

- RPTs should review current and previous proposed and actual student participation in Dual Credit programs when submitting their student participation proposals.
- A secondary school Dual Credit teacher will be assigned to provide support to secondary school students in college-delivered Dual Credit courses and college delivered Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training.
- For college delivered Dual Credit programs, RPTs will need to select the appropriate instructional location and course/in-class training offering to appeal to a broad range of eligible students to ensure that sufficient and cost-efficient funding is generated through the benchmark for the college to run the program and for the board to provide the Dual Credit teacher through Core Education Funding.

- For Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training delivered by Non-College TDAs, RPTs will need to ensure that sufficient and cost-efficient funding is generated through the benchmark for the school board to support students in the program, taking into account the use of OYAP funding available to school boards for eligible expenses.
- Dual Credit programs may be comprised of one or two credits per student. RPTs are encouraged to offer one Dual Credit per student to maximize the number of students who can be offered Dual Credits. Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training programs may exceed two credits depending on the number of hours of in-class training.
- Only college post-secondary courses currently available to regular college students and which appear in the college course calendar can be proposed as Dual Credits.
- RPTs will need to focus on student selection based on eligibility requirements as outlined in policy and these guidelines.
- For each Dual Credit program being re-submitted, RPTs will be required to identify the most recent year the program was approved and the program number.
- RPTs will be required to indicate the main target audience for each proposed Dual Credit program. OYAP and SHSM students may be enrolled in programs intended for the primary target group, where seats are available, to ensure courses are viable and maximize student opportunities. For example, SHSM students pursuing a college pathway can participate in Dual Credit programs and OYAP students interested in exploring apprenticeship training can pursue Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training at a college or non-college TDA and/or technological education-related Dual Credit programs.
- The Dual Credit program continues to focus on supporting the primary target group (PTG). Regional planning teams (RPTs) are encouraged to ensure that at least 70% of all Dual Credit courses offered are specifically designed for students in the PTG.
- For Dual Credit courses that are delivered at the secondary school or in the community, visiting a college is an important component of the Dual Credit program. Dual Credit will fund one visit to a college per student related to the specific Dual Credit course they are participating in. The visit should be to the nearest college campus and consist of experiences related to the Dual Credit program. The visit is not intended to be just a campus tour. Funding for this visit is to be entered under “Transportation” in the online EDCS application.
- Students under the age of 21 in Adult and Continuing Education programs may also be included in Dual Credit programs if they meet the eligibility requirements set out in policy (see also the Adult Dual Credit Programs section below).

A secondary school student in the English-language system may be allowed to enroll in a Dual Credit course/in-class training of a French-language college and vice versa. A signed protocol supporting this is expected to be in place before the start of the course/in-class training. More information is found regarding these protocols in section 3.3 in [Dual Credit Programs: Policy and Program Requirements \(ontario.ca\)](#).

Adult Dual Credit Programs (students 21 years and over):

- Adult Dual Credit students need to meet similar criteria as other Dual Credit students, including being within reach of graduation, having the potential to succeed in secondary school courses and college or apprenticeship, and be at least 21 years of age (as of December 31st in the year of the Dual Credit program).
- RPTs will work with board Adult and Continuing Education staff to develop proposals that will meet the needs of their students.
- Note: Students aged 18-20 in Adult and Continuing Education programs are also eligible to participate; however, they are not to be identified as adults in EDCS.
- All Adult Dual Credit programs require a Dual Credit teacher:
 - RPTs will enter Dual Credit teacher funding within the “Miscellaneous” section of EDCS. Please provide a formula that includes the school board’s continuing education rate. Please also indicate that students are in an Adult and Continuing Education program in the “Operational Details” section of the EDCS proposal.
 - For all students in adult day schools, funding for the Dual Credit teacher will be provided through the Core Education Funding.
 - For all Adult Dual Credit programs, please select that the program is primarily designed for adults on the Program Details page of EDCS.
 - Note that funding for Adult Dual Credit programs will be enveloped and cannot be utilized for any other purpose.

Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Dual Credit programs:

- For each SHSM Dual Credit program, RPTs must indicate all the related SHSM sectors and indicate each of the proposed participating schools and boards. These programs must demonstrate a strong connection between the sector and the college course.

School Within a College (SWAC) Dual Credit programs:

- Must be delivered on a college campus, where other college students are in attendance and college services are provided.
- These programs are specifically designed for students in their final year of secondary school.
- The expectation is that these students will not return to secondary school following the program as they will have graduated at the end of the SWAC program.
- Students in SWAC programs must attempt one or more Ontario curriculum credit(s) and one or more Dual Credit(s) each semester. This is a full-time program on a college campus.
- RPTs should enter funding for Wrap Around SWAC supports as a “Miscellaneous” entry in EDCS.

Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training Dual Credit programs:

- RPTs will work with Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) Recruiters from partner boards, staff from colleges and training delivery agents (TDAs) responsible for Apprenticeship, and local Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD) office staff to determine which trades to offer, to develop program-specific student selection criteria and selection processes and to develop proposals.
 - Non-College Training Delivery Agents (NCTDAs) are eligible to receive Dual Credit program funding. This funding comes from the total regional allocation provided for Dual Credit programming.
- For projects involving Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training delivered at a secondary school by a secondary school teacher (i.e., college oversight), the college must be an MLITSD-approved TDA at the time of signing the oversight form. The college attests that the secondary school program adheres to the learning outcomes set out in the Apprenticeship Curriculum Standards for each trade, which can be found at Trades Information – Skilled Trades Ontario, and to the appropriateness of the boards’ facilities, resources and instructor using the [Oversight Level 1 Form](#). If oversight is in place, students are not required to write the exemption test. This form will be sent to the Dual Credit contact at EDU Prior to entering the seats in EDCS.

- RPT Chairs will provide confirmation of approval from the local MLITSD Office for each Dual Credit program involving MLITSD funding for Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training. They will use the OYAP MLITSD Level 1 Form - Formulaire - PAJO niveau 1 financé par le MTIFDC form to document the approvals. This form will be sent to the Dual Credit contact at EDU Prior to entering the seats in EDCS.
- EDU Funded Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training will only be provided for students in the primary target group in exceptional circumstances. For these students, the [PTG Level 1 Form](#) to be completed by the appropriate partners.
 - OYAP students with an RTA are not eligible for Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training EDU funding.
 - Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training EDU funding for primary target group Level 1 students without an RTA should only be proposed in exceptional circumstances (to be discussed with the Dual Credit team prior to entering these seats in EDCS).
- Proposed programs must provide students with the opportunity to complete the entire Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training program, except for Child and Youth Worker (CYW), Child Development Practitioner (CDP), Educational Assistant (EA), and Developmental Services Worker (DSW) where programs are delivered in modules. RPTs will need to indicate the number of hours of instruction in their modular programs on a yearly basis and update the number of hours in EDCS as needed.

Dual Credit programs located in the community (not in a school, college, or noncollege TDA):

- Dual Credits in the community include programs that meet local and regional needs (e.g., due to geographical barriers, lack of space at college, specialized equipment).
- Where necessary, RPTs may enter facility funding (costed by the week) as part of their “Miscellaneous” entry in EDCS.
- RPTs must select the Community as the delivery location on the Dual Credit Courses page of EDCS.

Summer School Dual Credit programs:

- RPTs may submit entries for summer Dual Credit programs and summer SWAC Dual Credit programs. In the “Operational Details” section of EDCS, please describe the following:

- The roles, responsibilities and supports to be provided by the Dual Credit teacher. The expectation will be that the Dual Credit teacher's involvement will be for a minimum of 110 hours. Please provide a formula that includes the school board's continuing education rate. Funding is to be entered under "Miscellaneous" in EDCS.
- RPTs must select the Summer School box on the Dual Credit Program Details page of EDCS.

Night School Dual Credit programs:

- For night school Dual Credit programs, in the "Operational Details" section of EDCS, please describe the following:
- What supports will be provided to Dual Credit students by the institution and the school board and how these supports will be accessed.
- The roles, responsibilities and supports to be provided by the Dual Credit teacher. The expectation is that the Dual Credit teacher's involvement will be for a minimum of 90 hours. Please provide a formula that includes the school board's continuing education rate. Funding can be entered under "Miscellaneous" in EDCS.
- RPTs must select the Night School box on the Dual Credit Program Details page of EDCS.

Online Dual Credit programs:

- Online learning may offer a way to provide Dual Credits where circumstances present challenges to student participation.
- A list of eligible schools by board must be provided in the "Operational Details" section of EDCS.
- Students and, where appropriate, their parents must be made aware that a Dual Credit delivered online does not provide the same experience as a Dual Credit delivered in person at day school.
- RPTs must select the e-learning/online box on the Dual Credit Program Details page of EDCS.
- With the support of a Dual Credit teacher, students are encouraged to take their online Dual Credit at a secondary school location.

Targeted Funding:

- Targeted funding (outlined below) provided to support in areas where there are labour market shortages is open to all secondary students, including adults pursuing their OSSD in a publicly funded school and Indigenous learners in federally-funded/First Nation schools.
 1. Announced as part of the Spring Budget in March 2023, \$3.3 million (over three years) for expansion in health care-related Dual Credit courses, to support career pathways leading to nursing, personal support worker, lab technician and paramedics in 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.
 2. One-year approval of \$4.12 million to support participation in programs related to key economic sectors including Dual Credits for Level 1 Apprenticeship in-class training, technology-related and Early Childhood Education-related Dual Credit courses.