



Township High School District 211

Community Connections:

A Quarterly Update of the Strategic Plan

October 2018 - Special Academic Edition

Early College Credits

District 211 students are encouraged to enroll in early college credit coursework – Advanced Placement (AP) or dual credit – during their high school career. Students experience the completion of early college credit coursework as an assurance that they can be successful in college-level courses. The greatest benefit of early college credit is the accumulation of college credits which assists in graduating college on time. Early college credit courses provide students with academic rigor and the opportunity to save time and reduce college costs to increase opportunities for students’ postsecondary education.

CLASS OF **2018** EARNED
 **39,646**

Early College Credits

Early college credits reflect scoring a 3, 4, or 5 on AP exams or passing dual credit courses. These courses and exams are available in traditional college general education credits and career exploration coursework. Career exploration coursework is dual credit coursework and allows students to experience college-level coursework specifically designed for career development such as advanced manufacturing, culinary arts, HVAC, fire science, computer networking, computer repair, health sciences, and accounting. The graduating Class of 2018 earned 39,646 early college credits while in high school that may transfer to college as credits earned from both AP exams and dual credit courses.

Advanced Placement

District 211 offers coursework that prepares students for 33 different AP tests. Advanced placement coursework offers college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. To ensure a common curriculum across all schools, instructors are required to complete workshops offered by the College Board. Students completing AP coursework and successfully passing the exam can earn college credits. In 2015, a bill passed both the Illinois House and Senate requiring each public institution of higher education in Illinois to comply with the same standard of awarding course credit to any student who obtains a score of 3 or higher on a College Board AP examination. Public institutions apply the credit to meet a corresponding course requirement for degree completion. If not applicable to a specific department, then the credit will be awarded as part of the student’s general education degree requirements. District 211 continues to remove barriers and obstacles in the way of students participating in and completing AP coursework. Advanced Placement coursework is offered during a student’s freshman year, with opportunities increasing each year throughout a student’s high school career. District 211 has earned the AP District Honor Roll three times in College Board’s eight-year award history.

AP COURSE WORK
 IN **33** SUBJECTS

31

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALISTS FOR

2019

119

PERFECT ACT SCORES SINCE

1998

568

STUDENTS NAMED

2018-2019

ILLINOIS STATE SCHOLARS

Dual Credit

District 211 offers over 60 dual credit courses aligned both to career pathways and to curricular departments. Students earn both high school and college credit simultaneously for successful completion of dual credit courses. Students can use Transferology.com to discover which institutions accept the earned credit. Specified dual credit courses are transferable to any Illinois public institution. The Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) is a statewide transfer

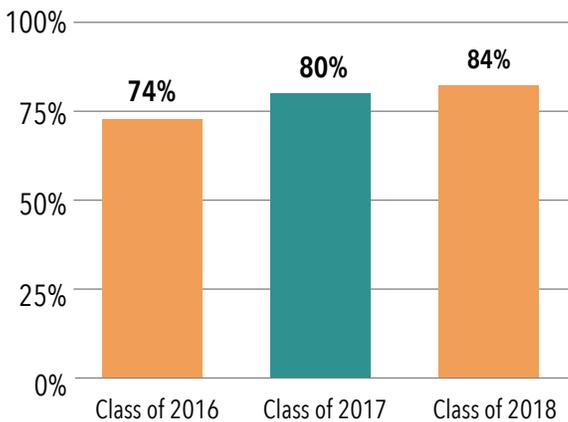
MORE THAN
60 DUAL CREDIT COURSES

agreement on courses transferable among more than 100 participating colleges or universities in Illinois. Nine of the dual credit courses

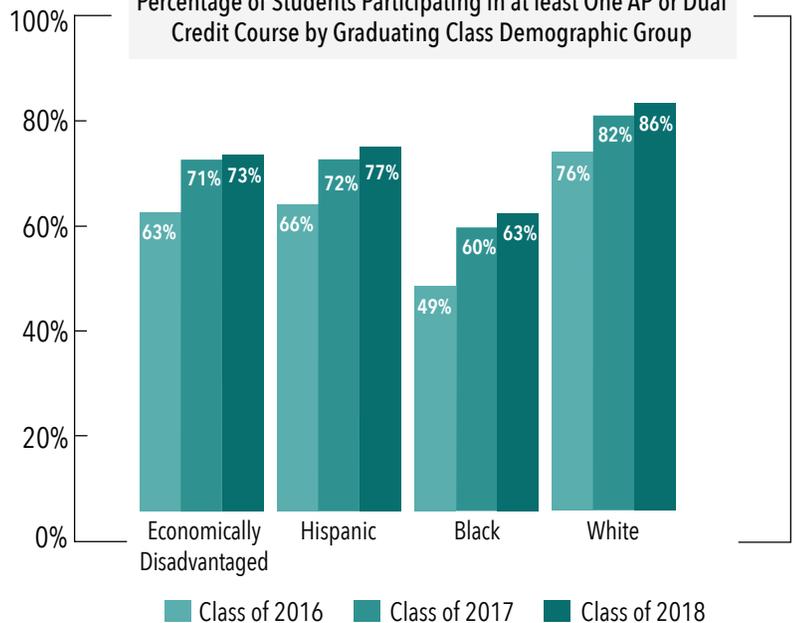
District 211 offers have an IAI designation including Speech, English, and Biology. There are no age restrictions on dual credit students, but a student must demonstrate college readiness skills or the specified prerequisite prior to enrolling in the course.

Dual credit course partnerships have been established with Harper College, Triton College, College of DuPage, and the University of Illinois. A majority of dual credit courses are taught by District 211 teachers in a District 211 high school. Instructors for dual credit courses must meet the requirements to teach at both the high school and collegiate level. Benefits of dual credit include greater collaboration between the high school and collegiate faculty, increased student aspiration to attend and persist in college, reduction in the need for remedial courses, and increased academic rigor. Additional information regarding dual credit opportunities can be found on the District 211 [website](#).

Percentage of Students Participating in at least One AP or Dual Credit Course by Graduating Class



Percentage of Students Participating in at least One AP or Dual Credit Course by Graduating Class Demographic Group



The Power of 15

District 211 established a goal for students to earn at least 15 college credits while attending high school, known as the Power of 15. Students have the opportunity to graduate with at least 15 college credits by earning a 3, 4, or 5 on Advanced Placement exams or passing dual credit courses. Research indicates that students entering college with 15 or more credits are twice as likely to graduate on time with a four-year degree. For the Class of 2018, 33% of students earned at least 15 early college credits.

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS WHO EARNED AT LEAST 15 EARLY COLLEGE CREDITS

CLASS OF 2016

25%

CLASS OF 2017

27%

CLASS OF 2018

33%