

Dr. James Wilcox, Superintendent
Longview ISD
May 24, 2010

Joint Senate Higher and Education Committee

Good afternoon, Madame Chairs. My name is Dr. James Wilcox. I'm the Superintendent of Schools at Longview ISD. My career in education spans over 30 years. Thank you for having me here to talk about dual credit.

Demographics:

	Number	Percent
American Indian:	34	0.4%
Asian:	87	1%
African American:	3,778	45.3%
Hispanic:	2,559	30.7%
White:	1,890	22.6%
Total Enrollment:	8,348	100%
Total Minority:		77.4%
Total Nonminority:		22.6%

Dual Credit Information:

2006-2007:	2007-2008:
Enrollment: 1 student	Enrollment: 62 students
Number of hours: 3	Number of hours: 186
2008-2009:	2009-2010
Enrollment: 272 students	Enrollment: 518 students
Number of Hours: 1,439	Academic courses: 390
	CATE/Workforce: 128
	Number of hours: 2,453
Tuition per dual credit course at Longview HS:	\$150
Average tuition per course at community college:	\$270
Average tuition per course at state 4-year institution:	\$513

2009-2010 Tuition Savings for Longview High School students:
Dual enrollment vs community college = \$98,040
Dual Enrollment vs state 4-year institution = \$296,571

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All workforce education offered in Longview ISD, with the exception of vocational agriculture, lead to certificate from our local community college or Texas State Technical College.

I was asked to give the committee a global perspective on dual credit as it relates to my job as a Superintendent. Dual credit is the future. Dual credit courses provide rigor and relevance and if you can save students/parents money, your constituents will love you.

Right now, districts are required to offer at least 12 hours of dual credit courses. I am here to tell you, I want to do more, but I need your help. I have two problems with dual credit, as I see it: I don't have enough qualified high school teachers to teach dual credit which limits the menu I can offer to students. But I'm not here with problems, I have solutions to offer. I'm full-service.

82nd Legislative Recommendations:

1. Incentivize ISDs to get their teachers trained and industry-certified to offer dual credit courses. I know there are no more blank checks and the state is facing a \$15 billion shortfall, so limit the funding to T-STEM courses or a course leading to a certificate in a high demand industry.

2. Incentivize community colleges to lend their teachers to high schools; or

3. Expand the number of courses that qualify for dual credit and you can do this by increasing the funding to community college for contact hours. Again, with the budget issues you are facing, I would recommend that you limit the funding to T-STEM or workforce education courses. Because at the end of the day, this issue is about jobs, about creating an educated workforce so that our economy can continue to grow. These students will get jobs, pay taxes, and not be a burden on our society.

Lastly, I want to thank you for funding dual credit last session. Funding dual credit is not another expenditure, it's an investment. We greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue. I want to be a resource to you on this issue. I am ready for any questions you may have.

James Wilcox