

Dual Enrollment at North Port High School

Despite the fact that North Port High School has experienced a tremendous increase in our dual enrollment program over the past three years (see attachment), we now find the necessity to expand our program. Unfortunately we are currently only able to deliver 10 courses during the academic year on our campus. This is due to the agreed upon number as designated through our Articulation Agreement with SCF. Many of the courses we offer are prerequisites for subsequent courses, therefore we only offer 5 courses each semester. Presently, we are requesting a change in the courses we would be allowed to offer. Without this adjustments our dual enrollment program is not expanding to meet the needs of our students.

In 2008, the Florida Legislature expanded the support for Dual Enrollment classes. “..the legislation made a strong statement regarding the need to increase access to dual enrollment courses for all eligible students.” The point was made even more specific in relation to the responsibility of the local school board. “District school boards shall annually assess the demand for dual enrollment and other advanced courses, and shall consider strategies and programs to meet the demand and include access to dual enrollment on the high school campus whenever possible.”(s. 1007.271, F.S., subsection 5)

In addition to the support from state legislation the need to expand our program at North Port High School is even more evident when considering the national data relating to academic rigor at the high school level and the impact of college preparatory /college level courses at the high school level.

A Shared Agenda is a body of research conducted over the past three years under the supervision of Former U.S. Secretary of Education, Richard Riley. The data compiled helped to create the Pathways to College Network whose goal is to enhance rigor at the high school level, encourage more students to enroll in meaningful post secondary programs and better prepare students in the 21st

Century for the global economy. The following findings are particularly relevant to our student population at North Port High School and underscore the need for more dual enrollment classes at NPHS.

-A rigorous high school curriculum has greater impact on bachelor's degree completion than any other pre-college indicator of academic preparation, regardless of socioeconomic status or race.

At NPHS only 23% of our 2010 graduates enrolled directly in a four year college or university while 40% of our graduates attend a two year community college. This is largely due to economics and the fact that a large percentage of our students are 1st generation college bound.

-Only 28 per cent of low-income students are enrolled in a college preparatory curriculum, compared to 49 percent of middle income students and 65 percent of high income students.

54.4% of North Port High School students are on Free and Reduced Lunch.

-College affordability has become a much greater problem for low-income families. In 2002, public college costs amounted to 60 percent of yearly income of low-income families; private college costs were 160 percent of income. Both these percentages have increased.

North Port has the highest unemployment rate and foreclosure rate in Sarasota County.

-More than 90 percent of students from the top two income quartiles graduate from high school, compared to 65 percent of those from the bottom quartile. This graph has barely changed for 35 years.

North Port High School had an 83% graduation rate in 2009. Despite having over 50% of our graduates qualify for Free and Reduced lunch, only 31% of that graduating class were considered economically disadvantaged leading to the conclusion that a large percentage of our dropouts were in the economically disadvantaged category.

North Port High School has a unique opportunity. We have several staff members who qualify to teach dual enrollment classes. We are the only school in the district which has the current ability to offer a DE class from each of the core disciplines. We are within a 15 minute drive of the SCF Campus but most of our students do not have transportation to access classes on the SCF campus. With permission from SCF we could easily add 2-4 additional classes on our campus and in combination with our expanding AP class menu we could easily move towards creating an early college high school on the NPHS campus.(see attachment #2) If SCF cannot meet our requests we can reach out to Edison State College who can address our needs beyond SCF capabilities.

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