

# **2023-24 Dual-Credit Memorandum of Agreement Between Northern Kentucky University & Bellevue Independent Schools**

## **Purpose**

This Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) establishes a collaborative relationship between Northern Kentucky University (NKU) and Bellevue Independent Schools to offer dual-credit opportunities for secondary school students who meet the requirements for admission into NKU's dual-credit program. This agreement incorporates by reference the stipulations originating in KY HB 206 (2017), which implements the Kentucky Dual-Credit Scholarship (DCS) Program and is managed by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

## **Defining the School-Based Scholars (SBS) Program**

Northern Kentucky University's School-Based Scholars program allows high school students to enroll in college-level courses offered by a college and simultaneously earn credit towards high school graduation and/or a postsecondary degree (these courses may be academic, but not remedial or developmental). Students must also meet course prerequisites. Specific to the SBS program, courses may be offered at a high school, online or a designated NKU campus.

## **Student Participation in the School-Based Scholars (SBS) Program**

### **SBS Admission policy**

The following groups of students are eligible for this program if they meet the following requirements:

1. High school sophomores, juniors and seniors:
  - Must have a high school unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher.
  - Must meet any course prerequisites.
  - Note: Sophomores may only take courses offered at their high school unless granted an exception as noted below.

Students must complete a School-Based Scholars application packet (online application, disclosure, and transcript). Test scores (ACT, SAT, and/or AP) must be provided if required as a pre-requisite to a course, however some placement testing may be available. Completed School-Based Scholars application packets do not guarantee admission into the program or eligibility for any specific course. All applications will be reviewed by the School-Based Scholars office for admission eligibility. *A copy of the SBS disclosure form is provided in Appendix A.*

All applications must be completed by the student and submitted in their entirety by the high school counselor (or responsible high school contact) by August 1 for the fall semester and by December 1 for the spring semester. If the student's qualifications do not meet the admission criteria for the SBS program by those deadlines, they will not be admitted for that intended semester but can apply for a later semester if their qualifications change.

### Admission policy exceptions:

- All requirements in this policy for dual-credit participation are the requirements for NKU. If a high school wishes to impose additional requirements for participation in dual-credit courses, those requirements will be enforced.
- Sophomore students will be limited to only taking classes offered at their high school.
  - Public or private high school sophomores who wish to take an online or on-campus course can petition the SBS office by submitting with their application to the SBS program:
    - A letter of intent from the student outlining their academic plan for taking courses online or on-campus (e.g. what course(s) they're trying to take and how that will further their academic goals).
    - A letter of recommendation from their high school's principal certifying their approval for the applicant to participate.
    - A letter of recommendation from a high school educator certifying their belief in the sophomore applicant's academic and emotional capability to participate in college courses.
  - Students must still meet any course prerequisites.
- Freshmen are unable to participate in the School-Based Scholars program, unless:
  - They petition the SBS office by submitting with their application to the SBS program:
    - A letter of intent from the student outlining their academic plan for taking courses online or on-campus (e.g. what course(s) they're trying to take and how that will further their academic goals).
    - A letter of recommendation from their high school's principal certifying their approval for the applicant to participate
    - A letter of recommendation from a high school educator certifying their belief in the sophomore applicant's academic and emotional capability to participate in college courses.
  - Students must still meet any course prerequisites.
- Submission of a petition for an exception does not guarantee admission.

### Continued enrollment

Once in the program, students must earn a grade of C or better in each of their classes to progress to the next semester prior to high school graduation. In certain circumstances, students who fall below this requirement will have the opportunity to petition the SBS program for continued enrollment as outlined below.

### Grades

Dual-credit courses allow a student to earn high school and college credit simultaneously. Per KY CPE's dual-credit policy: "The postsecondary institution's grading policy will apply to dual-credit courses and be used by the secondary school awarding credit."

NKU will communicate a student's midterm and final grade(s) each semester to the school's designated contact. Regardless of the location of the course, the grade a student earns in their dual-credit course(s) will be the grade awarded on their college transcript. Students who are applying to other institutions are responsible for requesting their NKU transcript be sent to those aforementioned institutions.

Students who believe their final course grade is inaccurate, or based on factors that were not included in the grading policy, may appeal the grade per NKU's "Grade Appeals – Undergraduate" policy.

### Orientation for students

- All high school counselors will provide their students with registration guides each semester. A blank registration guide will be provided by the SBS office. These registration guides will mirror student's SBS acceptance letters. Registration guides will provide student's usernames and instructions for setting up passwords, registering for classes, paying tuition, buying textbooks, and accessing NKU email.
- All SBS students will be enrolled in a SBS Canvas orientation prior to the start of the semester to help students further orient to the SBS program, learn about NKU resources, and learn how to best prepare for their SBS course based on where they're taking their NKU courses. All students are expected to read and comply with the expectations, responsibilities, guidelines, and procedures outlined in the Canvas orientation. This information will remain available throughout the semester.
- The SBS program will also host an open house session for students taking classes at the Highland Heights campus to tour and complete any necessary pre-semester preparations.

### Dual-Credit Courses

#### Course Offerings

Northern Kentucky University and Bellevue Independent Schools have agreed to work collaboratively to provide the following course schedule during the fall 2023 and spring 2024 semesters:

<u>Class Location</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Times</u>	<u>Fall 2023 Course</u>	<u>Spring 2024 Course</u>
Bellevue HS	NKU	Online	Online	EDU 300	
Bellevue HS	McDonald	TBD	TBD		FLC 101
Bellevue HS	Wheeler	TBD	TBD		MUS 100

Additionally, students are permitted to take other courses online or on NKU's campus.

*If your school is participating in the NKU Teaching and Learning Career Pathway (TES), please see Attachment B for additional information.*

*If your school is participating in the Supported Higher Education Project's (SHEP) SHEP Scholars Program, please see Attachment C for additional information.*

Once students are enrolled in a course, they will have an official academic record at NKU. After each add or drop deadline during the fall and spring semesters, the SBS office will provide a roster of registered NKU dual-credit students to a designated high school counselor at each high school with the expectation that the rosters will be verified with the high school's records and the school districts will submit any changes to the SBS office, as necessary.

SBS students may enroll in any number of credit hours each semester up to the maximum allowed for other NKU students. Students should work with their high school counselor and NKU advisor to determine an appropriate number of credit hours for them.

NKU reserves the right to cancel a NKU faculty-led course that does not meet enrollment targets or alter the proposed course list based on faculty availability.

SBS students may not earn an associate degree from NKU while in the SBS program.

### **Academic Quality**

Dual-credit courses taught in the high school, whether by a NKU faculty or a NKU-credentialed high school teacher, shall meet the rigor for postsecondary credit and be congruent with the University's normal offerings. Classes offered in the high school settings shall conform to the University's academic standards. Faculty for all dual-credit courses shall be approved by the appropriate department at the University and meet all SACSCOC credentialing requirements. Additional qualifications required by academic departments may vary and may require an additional interview with the academic department and/or the SBS program.

NKU will provide a faculty liaison for newly-credentialed high school teachers for every semester that they teach a new course for NKU in the SBS program. All dual-credit faculty, whether a NKU faculty or a NKU-credentialed high school teacher, will be enrolled in the SBS Faculty Orientation each semester. All instructors are expected to complete this orientation and any additional required trainings prior to the start of the semester. Additionally, all instructors are expected to attend a half day professional development event (details to be announced at a later date) to provide additional training, address questions that arise from the SBS Faculty Orientation and get any University/Program updates.

All dual-credit faculty, whether a NKU faculty or a NKU-credentialed high school teacher, are expected to read and comply with the expectations, responsibilities, guidelines, and procedures outlined in the Canvas orientation. This information will remain available to the faculty throughout the semester they are teaching. This information is available to districts upon request.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students enrolled in an NKU course who need accommodations due to a disability must register with NKU's Office for Student Accessibility, in accordance with NKU policy. While having a 504 on file at the high school covers accommodations for high school classes, it does not apply toward university courses, even if the university course is being taught at the high school.

Instructions for how to register with the NKU Office for Student Accessibility are provided to students through the SBS Orientation and to faculty through the SBS Faculty Orientation.

### **Instructional Continuity**

In the event of a natural disaster, pandemic, or other academic disruption; course instruction for dual-credit courses will continue through NKU's learning management system (e.g. Canvas) or other system agreed upon between an instructor and their academic department.

### **Participation in NKU Programming**

SBS students are enrolled as non-degree seeking students at NKU. They are encouraged to explore campus and attend events. As high school students, SBS students may be prohibited from participating in certain NKU programming at the discretion of NKU. Prohibited programming includes, but is not limited to, participating in Greek life, Student Government Association, and all international and study abroad/away programming.

## Negotiated Costs and the KY Dual-Credit Scholarship (DCS)

### Tuition Rate and Payment

The tuition rate for all eligible participating SBS students from any Kentucky school district will be set in accordance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulations each academic year. The tuition rate will be posted on the School-Based Scholars website and shared with high school counselors when determined.

NKU's Student Account Services department will send an electronic bill to the SBS students' NKU email addresses prior to the start of the semester. All students are expected to pay their tuition by the first day of classes. Students who are receiving the Kentucky Dual-Credit Scholarship will be reimbursed for those funds once KHEAA dispenses the DCS funds to NKU. Students who do not earn the DCS and fail to pay their tuition could face the inability to register for future classes and/or to request transcripts. Any school districts who pay tuition for their students will have tuition bills calculated after the KHEAA scholarship has been processed.

The school district will be responsible for transmitting all data required by the Kentucky DCS Program to KHEAA and following all procedures necessary to administer the DCS. NKU will be responsible for transmitting enrollment verification and final grade reports to KHEAA at the end of each semester, in accordance with the DCS procedures.

### Related Course Expenses

According to KY HB 206 (2017), the Participating Institution (NKU) "charges no more than the dual-credit tuition rate ceiling per credit hour, including any fees, for any dual-credit course it offers." The following additional charges associated with operating a college course will be allocated as follows and agreed upon by NKU and Bellevue Independent Schools:

Expense	Responsible Party	
	NKU	Bellevue Independent Schools
Laboratory and other fees associated with specific courses	X	
Professional liability insurance	For NKU faculty	For Bellevue Independent Schools faculty

Participating high school students will be responsible for the cost of course materials (textbooks, digital content, eResources, etc.) unless otherwise covered by the school district. This information is shared with students prior to the start of each semester and may be accessible through NKU's Bookstore website.

### Unsuccessful Students

Per KY HB 206, the DCS will only reimburse 50% of the cost of tuition for students who do not successfully complete any course in which students were to receive the DCS. Although the university incurs costs associated with teaching the course regardless of student performance, the remaining 50% will be absorbed by the university.

## Approvals

The agreement is effective with signatures below for the 2023/2024 academic year.



**Misty Middleton**  
**Superintendent**  
**Bellevue Independent Schools**

4/26/2023

**Date**



**Bonita Brown**  
**Interim President**  
**Northern Kentucky University**

4/19/23

**Date**

## Appendix A: Student's SBS Disclosure Statement



All new students **must complete the online application** to be admitted into the School-Based Scholars (SBS) program, accessible by scanning the QR code provided below. Once successfully completed, students will receive a reference number.

Additionally, for the SBS program, I agree to and understand:

1. In order to be eligible for continued enrollment in the program, students must earn a grade of C or better in each of their courses. Failure to meet this standard will result in removal from the program for the following semester. **In some cases, this may occur with little notice.**
2. Tuition must be paid in full by the first day of class each semester. The tuition amount varies each year. The SBS program recommends paying by the first day of class and receiving a refund later if a student receives scholarship money from KHEAA. *Please refer the SBS website for the current SBS tuition rate and payment information.*
  - a. **By signing this disclosure statement, students and parents accept the financial responsibility incurred by taking dual-credit classes and acknowledge that failure to pay can result in accumulated debt for classes taken as well as difficulty in sending NKU transcripts to other institutions.**
  - b. **NKU is striving to be a paperless institution; as such, paper bills and orientation materials WILL NOT be mailed home; they will be posted to each student's myNKU account and emailed to the his/her NKU email account.**
3. Students are responsible for purchasing the course materials and textbooks prior to the start of the semester.
4. Students are responsible for completing any required class experiences (labs, field trips, etc.).
5. Students are responsible for setting up and checking his/her NKU email regularly throughout the semester.
6. Students, not parents, are responsible for contacting their professors should issues arise in their courses. The SBS office can help troubleshoot if further issues persist.
7. Prior to each semester, the SBS office will provide each high school counselor with a student's registration, billing/payment, and textbook information. This information is also included in their NKU SBS admission letter that students will receive. Students are responsible for providing their parents with this information.
8. NKU courses are college-level courses and may contain mature content not typical in a high school environment. By submitting this disclosure, each parent and student understands that students may be exposed to mature content as part of each NKU course's curriculum.
9. Students are required to complete the SBS Student Orientation in Canvas. Details will be emailed to students prior to the start of each semester.
10. While in the SBS program, students may be surveyed to obtain information about their interests and experience to enhance the SBS experience as well as connect students with NKU programs, faculty, and students.
11. **By signing this disclosure statement, the parent and child agrees to the aforementioned disclosures and give their permission to NKU to release grades, performance information, and other educational information to the student's parent/guardian and to \_\_\_\_\_ high school in conjunction with the SBS program in accordance with FERPA.**
12. **Photo Release:** Students may be photographed in connection with their participation in the SBS program or events at NKU. *Parents/Guardians, please indicate your preference below by checking the appropriate box:*
  - ☐ I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby grant NKU and the SBS program permission to copyright, publish and/or use in any form pictures of my child taken in connection with the SBS program for any lawful purpose associated with the University.
  - ☐ I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby **DO NOT** grant NKU and the SBS program permission to copyright, publish and/or use in any form pictures of my child taken in connection with the SBS program for any lawful purpose associated with the University.

Student's Name (Printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## Attachment B: NKU Teaching and Learning Career Pathway (TES)

### Teaching and Learning Career Pathway

Northern Kentucky University's Department of Teacher Preparation and Educational Studies and Bellevue Independent Schools desire to establish a mutually beneficial partnership to develop an NKU Teaching and Learning Career Pathway at Bellevue Independent Schools. The Teaching and Learning Career Pathway was established by the Kentucky Department of Education to support the recruitment of a diverse and effective educator workforce in the Commonwealth. The partnership will involve providing pre-admission courses as part of NKU's TES Program.

This Memorandum of Agreement covers the period from the signing of the MOA, when implementation of the courses will begin, until the end of Academic Year 2023-2024. It is the intention of this partnership for the NKU Teaching and Learning Career Pathway that the dual-credit courses will be offered as part of the TES Program every year.

Specifically, the following NKU Teaching and Learning Career Pathway and TES Program courses will be offered on site with a high school teacher, as previously determined:

- Orientation to Education Professions/Programs (EDU 104, 1 credit hour)
- Introduction to Education (EDU 305, 2 credit hours)

Three additional courses in the NKU Teaching and Learning Career Pathway and TES Program will be offered online by NKU faculty members:

- Human Growth and Development (EDU 300, 3 credit hours)
- Education in a Multicultural Society (EDU 316, 3 credit hours)
- Capstone Course (EDU 592, 3 credit hours)
  - Please note: This course has the option of being taught by either an NKU faculty member or by the instructor credentialed to teach EDU 104/305.
  - If offered, the faculty assigned to this course will be determined by the Teacher Education program and the school district will be teaching any offered EDU 592 section.

The purpose of the NKU Teaching and Learning Career Pathway is to empower students with the knowledge, dispositions, and skills to be effective educators in a variety of disciplines and grade levels. Cooperative experience, internships, shadowing and mentoring opportunities provide depth and breadth of learning in the instructional program and allow students to directly apply concepts learned in the classroom. We believe the hybrid teaching approach (on-site and online teaching) with Bellevue Independent Schools will enable the Teacher Education Scholars, Bellevue Independent Schools teachers, and NKU faculty to provide opportunities for hands-on teaching experience, sustain an interest in the profession, and help cultivate skills and dispositions to be successful educators.

### Responsibilities of NKU

- Collaborate with the school district to identify key requirements to meet the Teacher Education Scholars requirements set forth by NKU:
  - See Admissions Criteria under "Admission Policy"
- Minimum number of students per course will be agreed upon with each school district based on their faculty availability.



- Admissions process for the NKU Teaching and Learning Career Pathway / Teacher Education Scholars Program:
  - Online application
  - Transcripts
  - Disclosure forms
- Provide a liaison between NKU and the school district.
- Correspond with district superintendent, or designee, on NKU Pathway requirements, needs, and development.
- Coordinate planning meetings with district/school administrators and educators.
- Coordinate course scheduling of NKU Pathway courses with school district's master schedule.
- Provide support to district/school administrators in the selection of educators to teach in the NKU Pathway.
- Provide access and training to district/school educators teaching in the NKU Pathway regarding NKU course resources online for teaching, learning, and evaluation (e.g., Canvas and student course evaluation).
- Provide curriculum and instructional support for district/school educators teaching in the NKU Pathway.
- Offer informal coaching through non-evaluative classroom observation of district/school educators teaching in the NKU Pathway.
- Provide faculty instructors for online courses in the NKU Pathway.
- Per NKU regulations on part-time faculty, the chair of NKU Department of Teacher Preparation and Educational Studies, or designee, will evaluate once a year the teaching effectiveness of the district/school educators teaching in the NKU Pathway.

#### **Responsibilities of the School District**

- Secure a physical space to conduct class with access to a projector and WIFI.
- Select and support district/school educators who teach in the NKU Teaching and Learning Career Pathway.
- Ensure district/school educators follow NKU policies set forth in course syllabus for the submission of midterm and final grades and the completion of course evaluations.
- Provide feedback on the NKU Teaching and Learning Career Pathway.
- Share expertise of school teachers/administrators on special topics in the NKU Pathway classes (arranged individually).

#### **Mutual Responsibilities**

- Data sharing on measurable impacts on student learning.
- Collaborate to conduct research.