

Kentucky moves within reach of dual credit goal



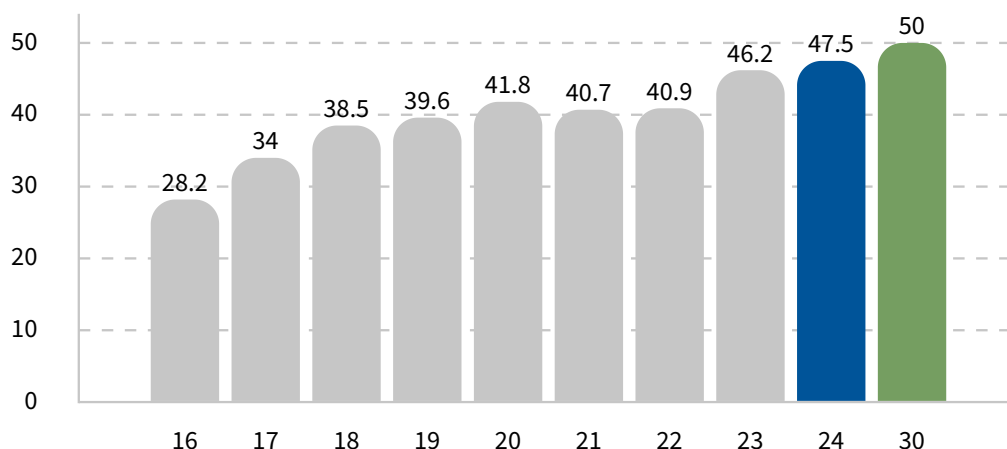
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Kentucky is closing in on an important goal for college and career readiness: By 2030, at least half of public high school graduates will complete a dual credit course with a grade of C or higher.

The graduating class of 2024 reached 47.5%, up from 46.2% the previous year, 40.9% in 2022 and just 22.8% in 2016. Kentucky now stands only 2.5 percentage points from its target. Dual credit participation has also expanded rapidly. In 2024-25, 52,141 students enrolled, an increase of nearly 50% since 2019-20, while the number of credit hours earned rose nearly 60%.

This progress matters because dual credit gives students experience with college-level expectations while they still have the support of their high schools. CPE research found that dual

Percentage of dual credit completion, 2016-2024



The share of Kentucky high school graduates completing at least one dual credit course with a grade of "C" or better more than doubled between 2016 and 2024.

credit participants had a 72% likelihood of enrolling in college immediately after graduation, compared with 53% for students who did not participate. Students who attempted dual credit also completed college sooner and graduated with approximately \$6,000 less debt.

As Kentucky approaches the statewide target, the focus must extend beyond participation. Students need clear advising, qualified instructors and courses that transfer and apply directly toward a degree or industry credential.

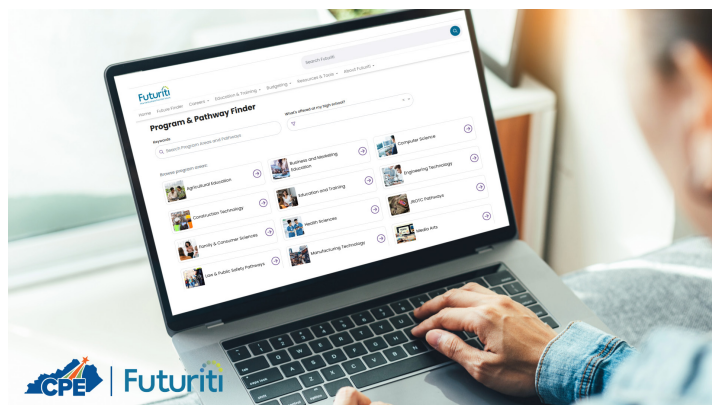
Continued collaboration among the Kentucky Department of Education, CPE, KHEAA, school districts and postsecondary institutions will be essential.

Kentucky's progress demonstrates what aligned policy, scholarship support and strong partnerships can accomplish. By maintaining both access and quality, the Commonwealth can ensure dual credit remains a powerful bridge for students from high school to college, careers and greater opportunity.

CPE expands Futuriti.org to help students explore local CTE pathways

As Kentucky high school students return to the classroom this fall, they will have a new resource to help them explore career and technical education opportunities in their communities.

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education's career and education planning website, Futuriti.org, has always shown program listings for high schools and area technology centers across the Commonwealth. Now, the new Program & Pathway Finder helps students and families better understand how those programs connect to future education and employment. Based on KDE's *Careers, Skills, and Postsecondary Opportunities for Kentucky CTE Pathways* guidance document, each listing includes a description of the pathway, related career options, aptitudes that may help students succeed in the field and opportunities to continue their education after high school. These new resources give students a clearer picture of the opportunities available in their own communities and help them choose a pathway that aligns with their interests and goals.



Kentucky schools offer more than 100 career pathways across 13 CTE program areas. Offerings vary by school and region based on local workforce needs, industry partnerships, facilities and educator availability.