

Your Guide to College Credit in High School in New York

Helping Your Child Earn College Credit While Still in High School

What is College Credit in High School?

College Credit in High School, also referred to as dual enrollment or early college, is an opportunity for high school students to take college-level courses—while still in high school. These courses count for both high school and college credit, which means your child can get a head start on their college journey.

Why it Matters — Benefits of College Credit in High School

- **Cost Savings:** Earning college credits in high school can reduce the time and money spent on a college degree. By entering college with credits already, students can earn their college degrees faster.
- **Gain Confidence with College Readiness:** Students experiencing college level work early will develop the necessary skills to ease the transition to college level courses.
- **Explore Career Interests:** Students can begin to figure out their professional path while still having high school support.
- **Stand Out on College Applications:** Student take college courses that appear on their high school transcripts, proving they are ready for college-level work.

And the best part? **Many of these programs are completely free.**



What College Credit in High School Looks Like in New York

In New York, high school students have several opportunities to earn college credit before they graduate. Here are the three main ways your child can get a head start on college while still in high school:

COLLEGE CREDIT IN HIGH SCHOOL (DUAL OR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS)

Many high schools partner with local colleges to offer college courses to their students. Your child can take these classes either at their high school or on the college campus, depending on the program. These programs vary in design and cost, so it's important to check with your child's school to understand the specific options available.

EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS

Some high schools use a special state funded model called [Early College High School](#)—this includes Smart Scholars and Smart Transfer Early College High Schools. In these schools, students can earn up to an associate degree for free by the time they graduate from high school. These schools also provide extra support to help students succeed and focus on serving students who are often underrepresented in colleges.

PATHWAYS IN TECHNOLOGY EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOLS (P-TECH)

[P-TECH schools](#) are state funded and offer a unique six-year program that starts in 8th grade and continues through 14th grade (two years after traditional high school). Students graduate with both a high school diploma and a free associate degree. These schools work through partnerships between public schools, colleges, and employers—IBM helped launch the first P-TECH program in New York City, and many other companies have joined since then. These programs help students earn a diploma and associate degree while launching them on a career path.

How to Get Started

Here's how you can support your child if they're interested in earning college credit in high school:

- **Talk to their school counselor:** They'll know what programs are available and how to apply.
- **Check the requirements:** Some programs ask for a certain GPA or placement tests.
- **Encourage your child to explore:** These courses are a chance to try out new subjects and build confidence.
- **Think about scheduling and plan travel:** Especially if courses are held on a college campus.

Supporting your child in a college credit in high school program is a powerful way to prepare them for college—and life after graduation. Whether they want to get ahead, save on college costs, or explore their interests, these programs can open doors.

Additional Resources

- [Dual Enrollment Info from EdTrust-New York](#)
- [Learn more about Early College Pathways in New York State](#)
- [The Path to Policy: Next Steps in Building an Equity-Focused Statewide Policy for New York's College in High School Programs](#)