

Dual or Concurrent Enrollment in Public Schools in the United States

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This Data Point examines dual or concurrent enrollment at public schools in the United States with students enrolled in any of grades 9-12. It uses data from the public school questionnaire of the 2017-18 National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), which is a nationally representative sample survey of public and private K-12 schools, principals, and teachers in the 50 states and the District of Columbia. State representative information is also available for public schools and their principals and teachers.

Dual or concurrent enrollment, which is enrollment in a class that offers both high school and college credit, is promoted as a means to help students prepare for college course work, as well as potentially save on college costs. The terms “dual enrollment” and “concurrent enrollment” are often used interchangeably. For ease of presentation, the term dual enrollment will generally be used in this report to refer to both dual and concurrent enrollment. This Data

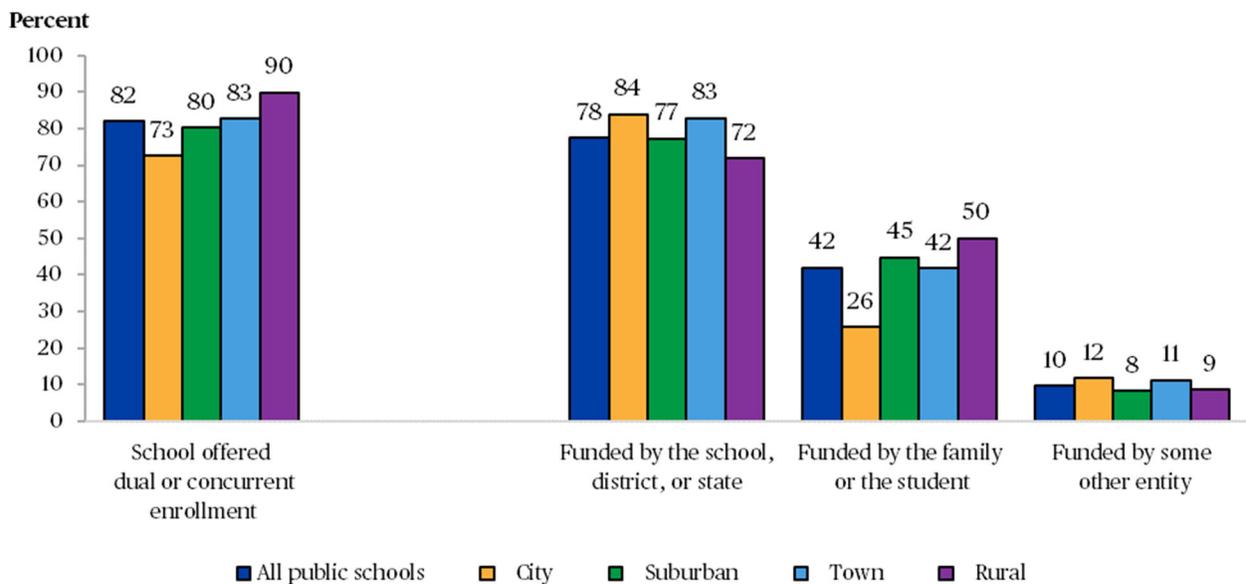
Point provides an overview of enrollment in and funding sources for dual enrollment courses in U.S. public schools by community type and percentage of students in the school approved for free or reduced-price lunch.

Is the type of community in which a school is located related to whether the school offers dual or concurrent enrollment and the funding source for these courses?

In 2017-18, 82 percent of public schools with students enrolled in any of grades 9-12 offered dual or concurrent enrollment opportunities for students (FIGURE 1).

Among schools with dual enrollment,¹ funding was provided most often by the school, district, or state (78 percent), followed by the family or the student (42 percent), or some other entity (10 percent). Dual enrollment may have multiple

FIGURE 1. Among schools with students enrolled in any of grades 9-12, percentage that offered dual or concurrent enrollment and how it was funded, by community type: 2017-18



NOTE: Detail may not sum to 100 because schools could select more than one funding source.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), “Public School Data File,” 2017-18.

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funding sources, and schools selected all applicable sources.

A higher percentage of schools located in rural areas offered dual enrollment than schools located in other types of communities (90 percent compared with 73 to 83 percent).

Among schools with dual enrollment, a lower percentage of those located in rural areas reported that the dual enrollment was funded by the school, district, or state than did schools located in other types of communities (72 percent compared with 77 to 84 percent), and a higher percentage reported that it was funded by the family or the student than did schools located in towns or cities (50 percent compared with 42 and 26 percent, respectively).

A lower percentage of city schools than schools in other types of communities reported that dual enrollment was funded by the family or the student (26 percent compared with 42 to 50 percent).

Is the percentage of students in a school who were approved for free or reduced-price lunch related to whether the school offers dual or concurrent enrollment and the funding source for these courses?

A lower percentage of schools in which 75 percent or more of students were approved for free or reduced-price lunch offered dual enrollment opportunities for students than did schools with lower participation rates in free or reduced-price lunch programs (71 percent compared with 84 to

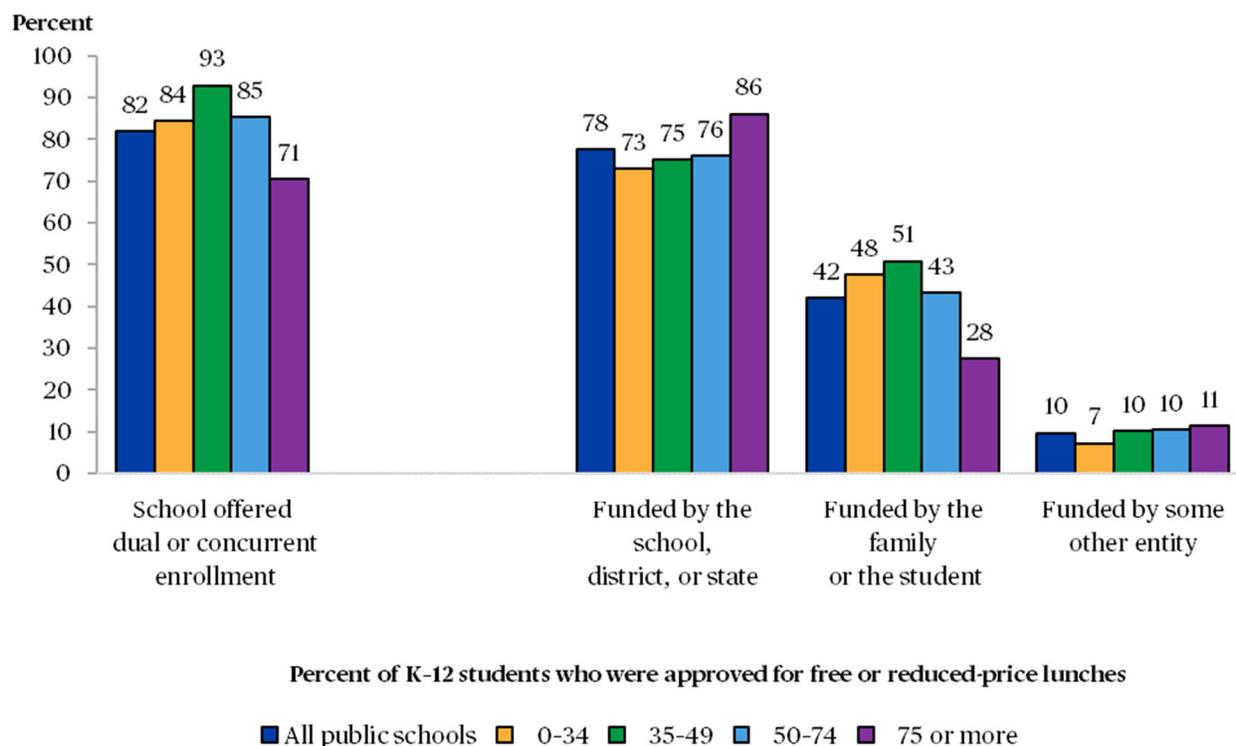
93 percent) (FIGURE 2).

Among schools with dual enrollment, a higher percentage of schools in which 75 percent or more of students were approved for free or reduced-price lunch reported that the dual enrollment was funded by the school, district, or state, and a lower percentage reported that it was funded by the family or student, than did schools with lower participation rates in free or reduced-price lunch programs (86 percent compared with 73 to 76 percent, and 28 percent compared with 43 to 51 percent).

Endnotes

¹ All findings are for public schools with students enrolled in any of grades 9-12.

FIGURE 2. Among schools with students enrolled in any of grades 9-12, percentage that offered dual or concurrent enrollment and how it was funded, by percent of students who were approved for free or reduced-price lunches: 2017-18



NOTE: Detail may not sum to 100 because schools could select more than one funding source.

SOURCE: The U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Teacher and Principal Survey (NTPS), "Public School Data File," 2017-18.