



**SOUTH TEXAS
COLLEGE**

Interlocal Agreement

**South Texas College Dual Credit Programs
Donna North High School TSTEM High School**

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE (herein called the "College") and **Donna ISD** (herein called the "School District") enter into the following Interlocal Agreement (IA), and for the terms of which WITNESS THE FOLLOWING:

TERM

This IA shall be in effect from August 22, 2022 to August 22, 2023, and posted during this term on the College's and School District's respective internet websites.

IA PURPOSE

The purpose of this IA is to outline the roles and responsibilities of the College and the School District that participate in Dual Credit Programs Designated High Schools. The IA references Texas Education Agency requirement of the House Bill 1638: Statewide Dual Credit Goals (herein called the "GI-4"). An additional Dual Credit Programs IA is required by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the parties to this IA desire to establish **Donna North High School TSTEM High School** ("TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL"), serving grades 9-12, and provide dual enrollment for academic dual credit college courses for high school students free of charge. As necessary, the School District will provide one (1) additional year of financial and academic support after the 12th Grade as designed by the Texas Education Agency Early College High Schools Program. The student population of the **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** will be composed of underserved and underrepresented high school students (grades 9-12); consisting of students who are at-risk, economically disadvantaged, first generation college goers, English learners, and students with disabilities. Potential students for the **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** may be screened and selected through the use of a lottery system that encourages and considers applications from all students. All students will have an equal opportunity for acceptance, regardless of background or academic performance.

WHEREAS Early College High Schools are small schools with enrollments between 400-500 or fewer students (100-125 students per grade cohort) which provide students the opportunity to earn both a high school diploma and up to two years of transferable college credits (60), certificate level degree, an associate's degree, and/or at least 60 credit hours towards a baccalaureate degree during grades 9-12. and;

WHEREAS Early College High Schools prepare this population of high school students for successful career and educational futures through a full integration of high school, college, high demand/high skill career preparation, improved academic performance, and increase high school and college/university completion rates;

WHEREAS both **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** and the College are willing and able to participate in the facilitation of this program to benefit the students they both seek to assist.

beginning of the semester, so that the Dual Credit Faculty can coordinate with their teaching responsibilities at the high school in order to attend required department meetings. **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** will provide common planning time for Dual Credit Faculty.

3) **LOCATION, FACILITIES, COSTS AND TRANSPORTATION**

The location of dual credit courses will be held at approved instructional sites in accordance with SACSCOC standards.

The Designated Texas Education Agency high school site, **Donna North HS TSTEM** is located at : **7250 Val Verde Road, Donna, Texas 78537**

a) **Funding and Average Daily Attendance (ADA)**

The TSTEM High School shall generate ADA funds for the School District from the attendance of students, which will be used to provide funding for the operations and expenditures of the high school as authorized by the Texas Education Code.

i. **Facilities**

The School District will work with the College to ensure that the School District's facilities meet the expectations and criteria required for college classes and are appropriate for college-level instruction by the first day of class including the following:

- School District will ensure that College Faculty and dual credit students have appropriate access to all available instructional facilities, resources, and essential technology;
- School District will permit access to the College's electronic learning resources when the course is taught at the School District; and
- School District offering science courses will meet the laboratory safety standards and have material/equipment required for College courses available in all labs in which classes are being taught to comply with the College science program requirements.

b) **Access to College Facilities, Services and Resources**

Courses will be conducted at the facility provided by the School District and/or one of the College's campus within the College's service district upon agreement. Access to the College will be made available following the College's Academic Calendar, including the summer. High school students, instructors, and appropriate staff may request a College campus identification card, and will have access to instructional and certain agreed upon non-instructional resources and services available on the campus of the College. **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** students are College students. therefore, the College's resources and services will be available to support academic success. The District and College will evaluate the high school facilities on an on-going basis and determine the necessity of adjusting facility needs for future semesters and years.

c) **Tuition and Fees (G1)**

The College waives student tuition for dual credit "S" section college courses. College provides students access to college resources, and support services at no cost. The School District will be charged tuition and fees as outlined in *Board Approved Tuition & Fees for Dual Credit Students Sponsored by Partnering School Districts for FY 2022-2023*. The School District will be responsible of costs incurred to support students that have graduated from high school but are within the service period as designed by the TEA ECHS Designated Model: 9th -12th Grade.

the completion of a career and program of study interest inventory. During a student's senior year, or after completion of the Core Curriculum, courses for field of study programs can be completed according to the College's suggestion of course sequencing. Such courses shall have been evaluated and approved through the official College curriculum approval process and shall be taught at the College level. The College does not offer kinesiology, guided studies, competency-based or developmental courses for dual credit.

c) Curriculum Alignment (G4)

The **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** and College shall provide a rigorous course of study that enables a participating student to receive a high school diploma and complete the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's (THECB) core curriculum as defined by the Texas Administrative Code (TAC 4.28), certificate level degree, an associate's degree or at least 60 credit hours towards a baccalaureate degree during grades 9-12. The **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** will provide students with academic, social, and emotional support during their course of study. The College will regularly update the **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** counselor and principal regarding College curricular changes. **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** is responsible for ensuring that state course requirements for high school graduation are fulfilled. The **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** and College will establish a course equivalency crosswalk and will be updated as required. The College's Catalog identifies the number of credits that may be earned for each college course offered at **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL**.

d) Books and Supplemental Materials

The School District will provide textbooks for each registered student, equipment, and supplemental materials required for the cohort (S sections) classes. The College will consider the use of free or low-cost open educational resources in courses offered under the program for School District. College-approved textbooks purchased by the School District as required for a college course are allowed to be used for four (4) years. Chairs may request a change of textbooks earlier than four (4) years, if the textbooks are for technology-based courses or with reasonable justification. Required textbooks and materials shall be available to each registered student on the first-class day. Exceptions must be discussed with the Dean of Dual Credit Programs and the Department Chair.

e) Grading Periods and Policies

Faculty will follow the College Grading System as stated in the College's Board Policy #3310 Grading System: Credit Programs, as well as the grading criteria in the department approved syllabus. **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** students will be informed by the instructor of academic progress/grade status prior to the Last Day to Drop/Withdraw at the College. **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** students struggling to maintain a passing grade will be advised by the instructor or the high school counselor to withdraw from the college course in order to avoid future problems related to admissions, financial aid, and scholarships. Withdrawal from the college course does not result in a withdrawal from the high school course. **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** personnel are responsible for advising dual credit students concerning academic progress in the high school component of the course.

f) Reporting Required Critical Student Performance Information

The College has developed guidelines for sharing critical student performance information when needed for high school reporting.

STC Faculty

- Will only provide final course numeric grades based on a standard 100-point scale to the School District, upon request. Request must be submitted by the

financial aid eligibility; and

- Cites regulations that require the evaluation of quantitative (67% course completion rate and maintaining at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA) standards, as well as completion of a degree or certificate within 150% of normal time frame.

6) **STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

Upon mutual agreement, the College will assist with enrollment at least once per semester for all students who are qualified and wish to enroll in academic dual credit courses. **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** students must meet the same requirements and pre-requisites as all College students for college classes. Academic placement is based on the College adopted TSI scores. **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL** students are required to meet TSI requirements when changes to the exemption scores occur at the State or College level to comply with policy.

a) **Student Eligibility**

The College requires the School District to follow all College enrollment procedures and guidelines for dual credit students. All procedures and guidelines are outlined in the College's *Dual Credit Programs Enrollment and Support Services Manual*. An electronic copy of this document may be accessed on the Dual Credit Programs webpage at the following link: <https://www.southtexascollege.edu/dual/index.html>.

All students must meet dual credit admissions and eligibility requirements as outlined by the THECB laws and regulations, the Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, Rule § 4.85, and as stated in the College's *Board Policy #3200 Student Admissions*. The School District will work with the College to make certain that all dual credit students are enrolled by the first day of class to help ensure student success and will comply with the College Dual Credit Programs Admission and Registration Timeline. An electronic copy of this document may be accessed on the Dual Credit Programs webpage at the following link: <https://www.southtexascollege.edu/dual/index.html>.

High school students are eligible to participate in the Dual Credit Programs upon meeting the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment minimum passing scores established by the THECB and the College dual credit course pre-requisites as published in the College's *Dual Credit Programs Enrollment and Support Services Manual*.

Dual credit students must comply with the College's Academic Progress Standards as outlined in *Board Policy #3320* and *Board Policy #3322*. Federal Financial Aid SAP requirements measure all students' GPA and progression regardless of whether or not they receive aid and these requirements are applicable to dual credit students who are still in high school.

b) **Course Load**

As stated in the College's *Board Policy #3232 Dual Credit Student Eligibility Requirement*, dual credit students may not enroll in college-level courses until the Spring semester of their 9th grade, and then limited to no more than two (2) dual credit courses for that semester from an approved list of recommended courses. All 10th grade students will be limited to only two (2) dual credit courses per Fall and Spring semester. All 11th and 12th grade students should not exceed four (4) dual credit courses per Fall and Spring semesters. Summer session enrollment is limited to two (2) dual credit courses for Summer Term I/II and two (2) dual credit courses for Summer Term II.

As outlined in the Texas Administrative Code, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter D, Rule 4.85, the school district may not enroll both dual credit and non-dual credit students in the same section unless the development of a high school credit-only class is not financially viable for the high school and only under one of the following conditions:

- i. If the course is required for completion under State Board of Education High School graduation requirements, and the school is otherwise unable to offer such a course.
- ii. If the high school credit-only students are College Board Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate students.
- iii. If the course is a career and technology/college workforce education course and the high school credit-only students are eligible to earn articulated college credits.

d) Collaboration and Outreach Efforts (G1)

The College provides informational sessions for students and parents regarding dual credit opportunities, benefits, cost, and resources. Sessions are available throughout the academic year upon request by the School District. The College disseminates the most current dual credit information regarding enrollment, resources, and requirements for the program the College's dual credit website.

e) Advising (G3)

The College and the School District offers college advising services for dual credit students, in addition to a College Advising Training Program for High School District Counselors held by the College.

- i. Advising responsibilities by the College and School District are delineated below:
 - Plan, schedule and offer advising and student support throughout the academic year;
 - Offer orientations and advising sessions that increase student's college knowledge and resources for new and continuing dual credit students;
 - Serve as the designated college support services staff for advising dual credit students.
- ii. The District will provide the following services and resources:
 - Provide facilities such as classrooms, computer labs, auditoriums or settings that will allow for the College to provide one-to-one advising, online advising or group type advising;
 - Provide equipment such as computer technology to facilitate advising or meetings.
 - Include and invite additional high school staff or district administration to participate or attend scheduled meetings, trainings or sessions.

In active collaboration with the College, the School District shall take whatever actions deemed reasonably necessary by the College to fully comply with the advising mandates delineated in TX SB 25 (2019) and TX SB 1324 (2019), which collectively address measures public institutions of higher education must take to facilitate successful transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation through, among other things, the filing of degree plans at certain milestones and the publication of course sequences. The College and the School District shall also take necessary actions to ensure compliance with any and all advising requirements of TX SB 1277 (2021), including but not limited to designating at least one employee from either institution to provide academic advising to each student who enrolls in a dual credit course before beginning the course.

or expulsion placed on their official record. On request by the student, the College may remove the notation from the official transcript. Further, South Texas College reserves the right to refer cases to the Behavioral Intervention Team for review and threat assessment. An electronic copy of this Student Handbook and Code of Conduct may be accessed on following link: https://www.southtexascollege.edu/pdf/student_code_of_conduct.pdf

k) **Student Complaints**

The College's Grievance and/or Complaint procedures for handling student complaints regarding college courses are applicable to all students, including those enrolled in dual credit courses. Dual credit students who would like to submit reports or complaints shall adhere to **Board Policy #3313, Student Grievance or Complaint**, and follow the process and procedures as detailed in the College's **Student Handbook** and/or the **Employee Handbook**, depending on whether the report reports or complaint relates to another College student or College employee. Generally, students should report complaints relating to a Dual Credit course to the College. If the student chooses to report to the School District, the School District shall promptly report the matter to the College. The College shall be responsible for implementing the College's Grievance and/or Complaint procedures only if the College has jurisdiction over the individuals and/or environment involved in the report or complaint, including but not limited to, jurisdiction over the educational program or activity, the complainant, and respondent.

Student reports and complaints alleging sex-based discrimination, harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or other sexual misconduct in a Dual Credit course will be handled in accordance with the policy and procedures outlined in **Board Policy #4216 Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking and Retaliation Prohibited**. A student may report a grievance or complaint at the following link: <https://www.southtexascollege.edu/report/index.html>.

7) **DATA SHARING**

FERPA allows protected student data to be exchanged between the College and School District for students that are dually enrolled without requiring the consent of either the parents or the student under § 99.34. If the student is under 18, the parents still retain the right under FERPA to inspect and review any education records maintained by the School District, including records that the College disclosed. The College and the School District are expected to meet FERPA requirements to maintain the privacy of student data.

The College will provide data reports to the School District via standard reports as per identified timelines. These reports have been developed in an effort to provide required data in a timely manner to our partners with a signed (IA). The School District shall provide a primary and secondary contact, at the District and at each high school, to receive data via a secure process from the College. These contacts will be responsible for distributing data securely within their assigned area and within FERPA guidelines. Any student level data received from the College shall not be shared outside the District without prior authorization from the College.

The College partners may request data outside of the scheduled report distribution schedule provided:

- An (IA) has been executed and is active between the partner organization and the College
- The data request is submitted, at minimum, three (3) business days prior to the requested delivery date

of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Title IX resources, policies, and procedures, including the names and contact information of the Title IX Coordinator and the Title IX Deputy Coordinators for the College are located at the following link: <https://www.southtexascollege.edu/about/notices/title-ix.html>.

The School District will designate a specific School District official who is trained to investigate and address matters relating Title IX and civil rights issues, including but not limited to Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act to serve as the authorized liaison with South Texas College Office of Human Resources and/or the Title IX Coordinator. The School District official and the College's representative(s) will work collaboratively and timely to share any and all information necessary in the event of an investigation of a personnel matter.

12) NON-DISCRIMINATION

The College prohibits discrimination, including harassment, and sexual misconduct against any employee, applicant for employment, student or applicant for admission on the basis of any protected class or any other basis prohibited by law. Protected classes at the College include: race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status or any other basis prohibited by law.

Discrimination is defined as prohibited conduct directed at an employee or student on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, including pregnancy and parental status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis prohibited by law, that adversely affects the employee's employment or that adversely affects the student.

For more information, please visit *Board Policy #4216: Sex Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Stalking and Retaliation Prohibited*.

13) DISCONTINUATION OF OPERATIONS

Should the School District or College elect to discontinue the operation of the **TSTEM HIGH SCHOOL**, the provisions for serving the students will include the following:

- a) Notification of the discontinuation of the operation should be communicated immediately to the partnering high school and College administration.
- b) Only the last accepted cohort will be allowed to continue as designated until students phase out of the 12th grade.

While in the process of discontinuing operation, the Designated High School may not enroll any additional students in the designated program in grades that have been phased out. In addition, while the designated school is in the process of discontinuing operation, the designated program must continue to meet all of the required design elements and provide full support for all students enrolled in the designated program as mandated by the Texas Education Agency and other regulating partners such as Educate Texas.

14) INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT(IA)

This IA may be amended by mutual written agreement of both parties.

The College and the School District reserve the right to terminate this IA, by notice from either party in accordance with this IA or by operation of law. The College or the School District may

Exhibit A Sample Recognition

