

Course Access: Improving Student Access to Advanced Coursework

Presenters:

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iNACOL
International Association for K-12 Online Learning



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Opportunity Gap Statistics

Of US high schools, only

 **50%** offer calculus

 **63%** offer physics

In US high schools with the highest percent of black and Latino students,

 **25%** do not offer algebra II

 **33%** do not offer chemistry



Course Access:
Equitable Opportunities for
College and Career Ready Students



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Course Access
provides public school
students with
expanded course
offerings across
learning environments
from diverse,
accountable providers.

Course Access Key Elements

Equitable
Access

Sustainable
Funding

A Focus on
Quality

Stakeholder
Engagement

Equitable Access

All public school students are eligible to participate

Courses and materials are fully accessible to all learners

Sustainable Funding

Adequate for high-quality courses & instruction

Follows students at the course level

Performance-based, weighted funding

A Focus on Quality

Courses and providers evaluated against nationally recognized quality standards

Transparent data on course and provider quality to inform student choices and state decisions on provider participation

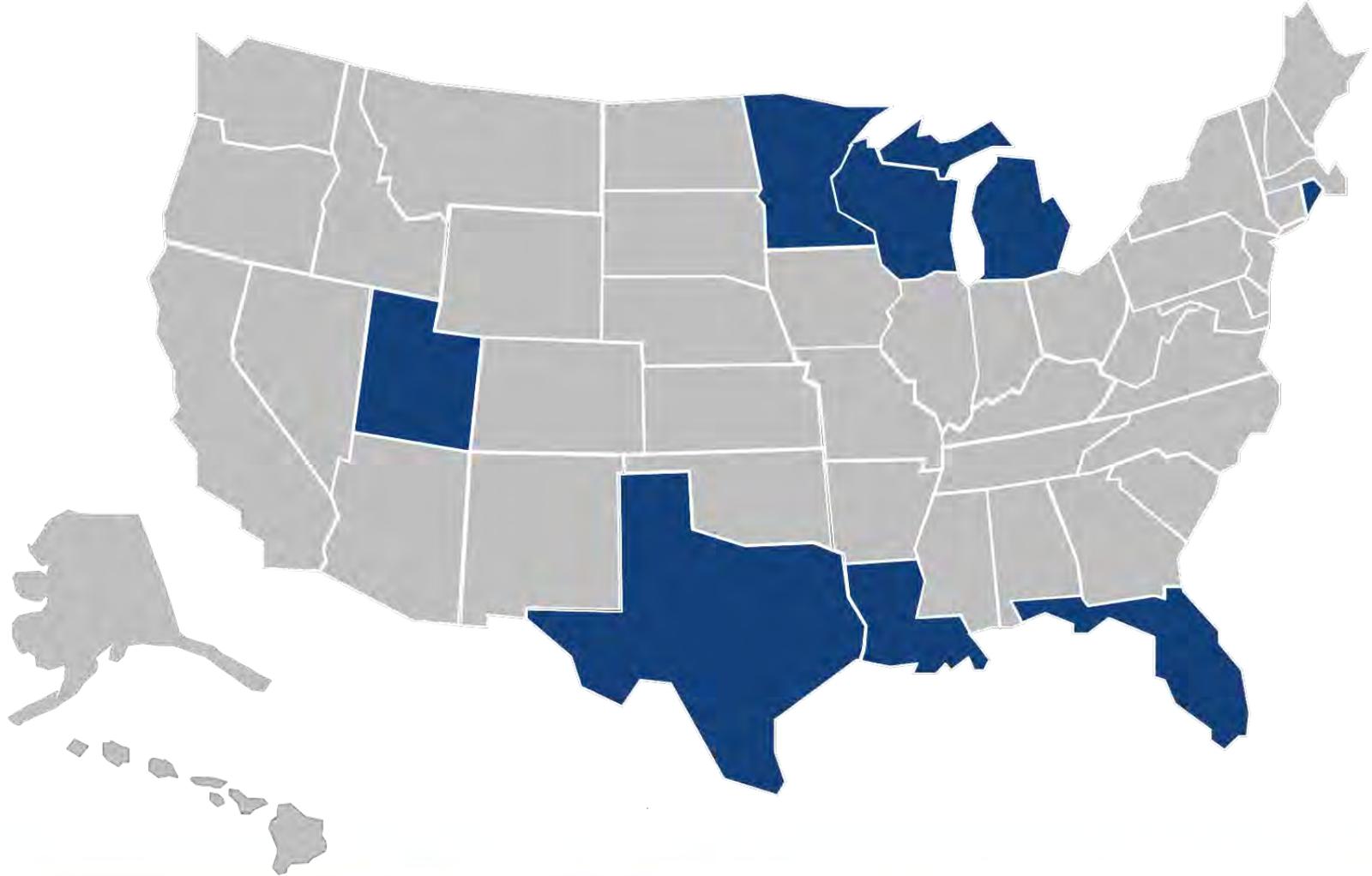
Rigorous, ongoing provider accountability

Stakeholder Engagement



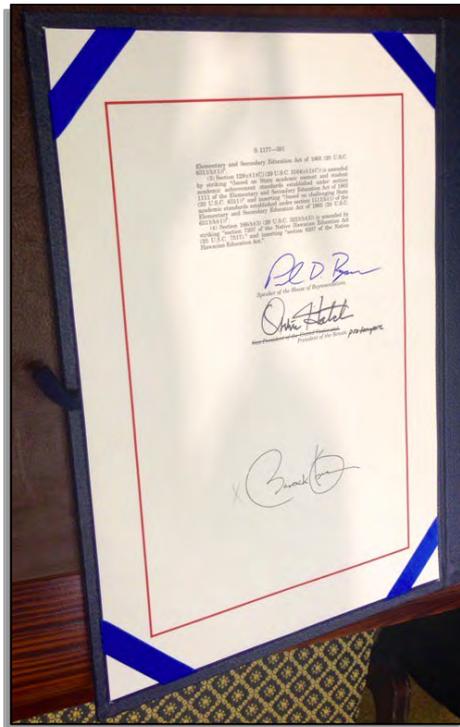
Students, families, teachers,
and counselors informed
about options

States with Course Access Programs



Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

December 10, 2015



Course Access & ESSA: Opportunities for States

ESSA: Direct Student Services

- 3% optional state set-aside from Title I
 - Subgrants to districts w/ most schools in improvement
- Allowable uses:
 - Courses not available at a student's school
 - Credit recovery
 - Accelerated learning
 - Personalized learning
 - High quality tutoring from approved providers
 - Transportation for students to attend a different school

Learn more: chiefsforchange.org/dss-resources

ESSA: Student Support & Academic Enrichment Grants

- Title IV; \$1.6 billion over 4 years
- Formula to state or competitive to state (depends on appropriation \$\$)
 - 95% to districts, use based on local needs assessments
- Allowable uses:
 - School health and safety ($\geq 20\%$)
 - School counseling
 - Expanding access to a well-rounded education ($\geq 20\%$)
 - Education technology
 - Could include online courses and personalized learning

Louisiana Course Choice

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**Welcome to Louisiana Course Choice /
Supplemental Course Academy**



Louisiana Course Choice Vision

“Course choice is a platform . . . an invitation for those typically not involved in the traditional K-12 school system to build upon and improve that system.”

Whether it be courses in career education, art, world languages or advanced algebra, Course Choice . . . provides courses that Louisiana students and parents demand but which all-too-often our traditional K-12 schools do not provide.”

John White, Superintendent

Louisiana Course Choice Goals

- Training our students for high-wage 21st Century jobs
- Providing advanced academic coursework for our most academically-ambitious students
- Helping struggling students through remedial coursework
- Providing courses at scale and at a cost-efficient rate

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Louisiana Course: Three Phases

Phase I: Original Legislation (2012-2013) – broad course catalog and robust online registration system, family choice, “money follows the student.” *planned, never implemented*

Phase II: Post-Court Ruling (2013-2014) – “opt-in” program, choice determined by districts, limited one-time funding.

Phase III: Sustained Funding (current) – all districts participate, choice determined by districts (extensive catalog, narrow enrollments), sustained public education funding.

Louisiana Course: Current Enrollments

- Standard Test Prep
- Dual Enrollment Courses
- Career and Technical Education
- Other College Courses

Rhode Island Course Access

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Rhode Island Context



- **Uneven access** to valuable academic and career preparation courses.
- **Increased awareness** for need for personalized pathways and experiences.
- **Limited funds and resources** at school/district level to expand opportunities at scale.

Course Access in Rhode Island

- Statewide Access to RIDE Approved Career and Technical Education Programs (2012)
- Prepare Rhode Island Dual Enrollment Fund (2015)
- Rhode Island Advanced Coursework Network (2016)



Advanced Coursework Network – Overview

- Developed by RIDE with repurposed funding from within the department.
- Coursework is provided by Rhode Island LEAs, Rhode Island based non-profits, colleges and universities and WOIA eligible training provider programs. All programs go through a rigorous review process.
- All middle and high schools have the option of participating as a network member.
- Network members have the opportunity to customize their course catalog to meet the unique needs of their students, school and community. Opportunities are available at no cost to the student, their parents or their school.

Advanced Coursework Network – Participation

Network Course Providers:

2016-17: 4 Districts; 5 Colleges; 5 CBOs

2017-18: 7 Districts; 6 Colleges; 8 CBOs

Member Schools:

2016-17: ~50% of secondary schools at start of year

2017-18: ~75%+ of secondary schools at start of year

Students:

2016-17: ~830 course enrollments

Year One – Lessons Learned

- Timelines for communicating with schools and districts
- Network provider approval process
- Student persistence following registration
- Supporting and respecting local decisions
- Importance of parent engagement



Advanced Coursework Network – Benefits

The Advanced Coursework Network allows students to remain enrolled in their local high school while taking the coursework that is aligned with their personal passions and goals.

The Advanced Coursework Network is an asset to our school districts. District leaders increasingly see the Advanced Coursework Network as a tool that achieves equity and access of coursework opportunities.

The Advanced Coursework Network leverages the great things already happening in Rhode Island. Instead of recreating successful partnerships, students and schools are able to take advantage of existing successful partnerships.

Q&A

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Stay in Touch

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