



**South Island Partnership**

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April 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

**To: Funding Model Review Committee**  
**Re: K-12 Public Education Funding Model Review**  
**Via Email: [k12fundingreview@gov.bc.ca](mailto:k12fundingreview@gov.bc.ca)**

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of the South Island Partnership (SIP), we would like to provide a submission advocating for the continued recognition and funding of post-secondary (dual credit) transition programs.

The SIP is a collaboration between Comosun College and five south island school districts – Greater Victoria (61), Sooke (62), Saanich (63), Gulf Islands (64), and Cowichan Valley (79). Our partnership began informally before the turn of the century, and established a formal Memorandum of Understanding in 2003. The mandate of the SIP is to "support the smooth transition of secondary students to post-secondary education and employment opportunities through collaborative arrangements, sharing of resources and expertise, and through the development and delivery of dual credit transition programs."

The Ministry of Education provides support for dual credit transitions programs through ministry policies that establish conditions and procedures for funding and reporting of post-secondary credits. In the South Island region, these policies have provided an environment for the development of dual credit transition programs that focus on specific fields of study and lead to specific occupations. Many of our programs have been developed through collaboration between secondary teachers and college instructors. Currently, the SIP offers a wide range of transition programs in areas that include Business, Construction and Manufacturing, Communications, Culinary, Health Care, Motor Vehicle and Technology:  
<http://comosun.ca/learn/south-island-partnership/programs-courses/index.html>

In addition, the Ministries and Agencies responsible for Advanced Education, Skills and Training have provided support to Comosun College through various initiatives to support youth programs that have led to the development of dual credit transitions programs in specific occupational areas to address skill shortages. Industry has also played a major role in providing our students with exploration, transition and employment opportunities. Over the years, our team and school districts colleagues have worked with the Industry Training Authority, BC Health Care Providers, BC Construction Association, Construction Foundation of BC, Island Health, Engineers & Geoscientists of BC, Victoria Innovation Advanced Technology & Entrepreneurship Council, Canadian Welding Association, Roofing Contractors Association of BC, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, and many other local companies and organizations. Combining dual credit programming with industry experience has enabled students to engage in purposeful technical training and secure meaningful employment.

With the support of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Advanced Education and numerous industry organizations, we are very proud to highlight the success that thousands of our students have experienced through the South Island Partnership. During the spring of 2017, the SIP

undertook a research project supported by the BC Council on Admission and Transfer (BCCAT) to understand the transition of our dual credit students to further post-secondary education including apprenticeship: [http://www.bccat.co/pubs/DualCredit\\_May2017.pdf](http://www.bccat.co/pubs/DualCredit_May2017.pdf). The results of the study allowed us to fully understand the positive impact that dual credit is having on student transition, and reinforced our partners resolve to continue to offer, develop and support dual credit transition programs.

SIP has a significant investment in dual credit transition programs that our partners jointly fund to support student success. Our transition opportunities focus on helping students with a wide range of experience, skill and ability. We work very closely with our school districts and Camosun College to ensure students experiencing challenges have the same opportunity to be successful as any other. We collaborate with Camosun's Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) to ensure our students experiencing academic challenges have the supports they need throughout their programs. We advocate for and secure outside donations to support students experiencing financial challenges. We communicate regularly with our students, and their school-based teachers and staff, to ensure their mental health and wellbeing is a priority. Many students, at risk of not graduating or becoming disengaged from our education system, have reconnected and found passion through SIP programs and opportunities.

Throughout the province, there are many partnerships similar to SIP, with every public post-secondary having the ability to collaborate with local and non-local school districts to create dual credit transition programs. These partnerships are essential to the successful transition of high school students into post-secondary and the world of work. With the potential to move away from a course-based funding model, we urge you to consider how this would affect post-secondary transition programming. With many school districts using Distributed Learning (DL) and Continuing Education (CE) to create flexible and accurate funding claims, we ask that you consider how changes to these programs may affect school districts' ability to support students taking dual credit.

We would be happy to be involved in any future meetings regarding post-secondary transition programming, and how it can continue to be supported in the new funding model. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



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