

DCQA Committee Meeting Minutes October 17, 2025

The Dual Credit Quality Act (DCQA) Committee convened with leadership from Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to review current administrative rules, discuss statutory changes, and outline upcoming processes related to dual credit. Dr. Brian Durham and Dr. Jason Helfer opened the meeting.

Review of Current ICCB Administrative Rules

Dr. Durham provided a refresher on existing rules governing dual credit courses, emphasizing that:

- Dual credit courses must be true college courses meeting state law, ICCB rules, accreditation standards, and local college policies.
- Students must meet academic qualifications and prerequisites.
- Courses must be direct equivalents, supporting transferability through the Illinois Articulation Initiative.
- Freshmen and sophomores cannot be claimed for credit hour reimbursement though colleges may still offer them dual credit coursework.

Committee members discussed HLC audits, CTE course applicability, and instructor qualification standards. ICCB reiterated requirements for master's degrees in transfer disciplines and work-experience based qualifications for CTE instructors. Professional Development Plans (PDP) were reviewed as a pathway for instructors working toward full credentials.

Partnership Agreements

Colleges must maintain partnership agreements with high school districts supported by a Model Partnership Agreement (MPA). Mixed-enrollment classes and student withdrawal processes were discussed, particularly regarding financial aid implications.

Changes Under the Dual Credit Quality Act

Key statutory updates include:

- Required liaisons for colleges and high schools.
- Written requests and 60-day timelines for partnership agreements.
- Mandatory filing of agreements and PDPs with ICCB.
- Elimination of the 180-day MPA requirement.
- New appeal processes and restrictions on out-of-state institutions.
- Community colleges retain right of first refusal for dual credit offerings.

The ICCB Administrative Rules will be revised. ICCB outlined the rulemaking process: Board review, public comment period, JCAR approval, and publication. The goal is to finalize Administrative Rule changes by March 2026 with draft review scheduled for the January 9, 2026 committee meeting.

Model Partnership Agreement Updates

The MPA requires significant revision to address:

- Clear timelines and expiration dates.
- Mixed classroom policies.
- Student communication and clarity on course types.
- Accommodations and discipline procedures.
- Student complaint pathways.

Approved on 01.09.26

Committee members emphasized aligning the MPA with DCQA requirements and addressing practical delivery issues such as remote instruction.

Processes in Development

ICCB is actively drafting rule updates, gathering changes for the MPA, developing appeals processes, and creating a centralized webpage for dual credit. In addition, ICCB will work on a five-year study.

Committee Questions and Comments

Members raised concerns about:

- Cost models.
- Student performance, GPA impacts, and equity in course-taking patterns.
- Systemwide pain points.
- Opportunities to highlight successful partnerships.

Next Steps

The committee will reconvene on January 9, 2026 to review draft administrative rule updates. ICCB will share meeting materials with members.