# Executive Summary: Proposal for the Formation of a Dual Credit Council

## Overview

Dual credit programs—Running Start (RS), College in the High School (CiHS), and Career and Technical Education Dual Credit (CTE DC)—now serve 90% of Washington’s high school students. These programs are critical to student success, college enrollment, and institutional revenue. However, the current system lacks the structure and coordination needed to manage their rapid growth, increasing complexity, and rising competition from universities.

## The Challenge

Despite their success, dual credit programs face significant challenges:
- Fragmented operations: Inconsistent admissions, transcription, and advising practices across colleges.
- Policy vulnerability: A reactive stance to legislation has left CTCs disadvantaged (e.g., SB5048).
- Operational strain: Compliance, data reporting, and system integration (e.g., ctcLink) lack centralized support.
- Competitive pressure: Universities are expanding aggressively into dual credit, threatening CTC enrollment and funding.
- Student impact: Disjointed pathways create confusion and inequity for students navigating dual credit options.

## The Solution: A Dual Credit Council

The Instruction Commission proposes the creation of a Dual Credit Council to provide strategic leadership, operational alignment, and policy advocacy. This council will:
- Coordinate statewide processes for admissions, matriculation, and transcription.
- Develop standards for CiHS and CTE DC program operations.
- Advocate for funding and propose a sustainable cost model for dual credit delivery.
- Align with WSSSC to ensure cohesive work across instruction and student services.
- Support legislative engagement and proactive policy development.

## Strategic Importance

Dual credit is not only a student success strategy—it is a system sustainability strategy. In 2024, RS alone generated $217M in revenue for the CTC system. A coordinated approach is essential to protect and grow this impact.

## Next Steps

The proposal is currently under review by WACTC and will be voted on by college presidents. Your support is critical to ensuring Washington’s CTCs remain leaders in dual credit innovation and access.