

# Early Postsecondary Opportunities

## WHAT ARE EPSOs?

EPSOs are courses and exams that give students postsecondary credit while still in high school.

Below are the four types of EPSOs

1

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

**Advanced Placement (AP) courses** are postsecondary level courses taught in high schools. Students complete the courses with AP exams and may earn postsecondary credit in that subject with a qualifying score.

2

### DUAL ENROLLMENT

**Dual Enrollment courses** are postsecondary courses taught at either a postsecondary institution or the high school. Students enroll at the postsecondary institution where it is offered and can receive postsecondary credit. Students may also apply for [Dual Enrollment Grants](#) to cover the cost of tuition and fees for these courses.

3

### STATEWIDE DUAL CREDIT

**Statewide Dual Credit** are college-level courses taught in high schools. Students complete the courses with online challenge exams. If students earn a passing score, the courses may be applied for credit at any public Tennessee postsecondary institution.

4

### INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION (IC)

**Industry Certifications** are credentials awarded to students that complete secondary and postsecondary career and technical education programs and courses. They are awarded by non-academic or government agencies, require exams, and are time-limited, meaning students need to re-up certifications periodically.

## WHY EPSO'S

1

**EPSOS CAN HAVE POSITIVE EFFECTS ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, AND COLLEGE GOING RATES, AND THESE EFFECTS VARY ACROSS STUDENT GROUPS AND THE TYPE OF EPSO.**

2

**THE GOAL OF EPSOS IS TO FOSTER POSTSECONDARY SUCCESS, HOWEVER, RESEARCH EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT STUDENTS IN BOTH DUAL CREDIT AND AP PROGRAMS OFTEN STRUGGLE TO PASS THE DUAL CREDIT EXAMS AND LOSE CONFIDENCE IN THEIR OWN ACADEMIC STRENGTHS.**