

## Summary of Community College Contracts with K12 Districts December 2025

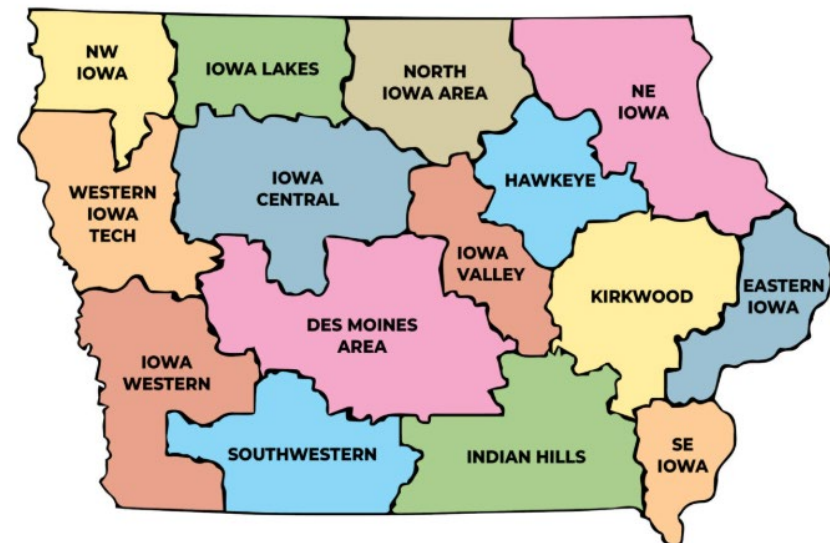
UEN was asked to compare the Community College contracts for concurrent enrollment fee and other information for UEN member districts. This report and table of comparison linked below is a summary of the findings as of December 2025.

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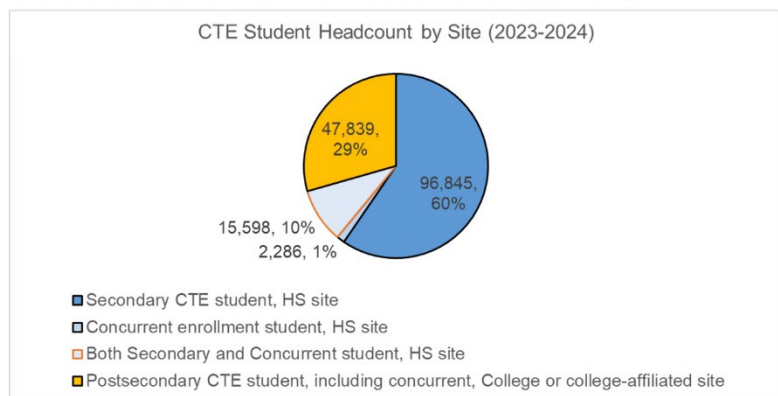
### Background: Iowa Community College High School Enrollment Trends

The Department of Education Reported to the State Board of Education on December 4, in an agenda item regarding the split of federal Perkins funding for K-12 and Postsecondary (Community College) efforts. Iowa is a national leader in attainment of college credits for high school students, and the future of both High School and Community College programs are intertwined. This analysis shows the interdependence of school districts and Community Colleges in providing CTE and other high cost programming. School district concurrent enrollment programs are funded with a per pupil funding formula (\$7,988 per student) multiplied by a specific weighting per student based on the program. Community College tuition and fees, however, vary across the state, based on program offered in each region and contracts set primarily by the Community Colleges.

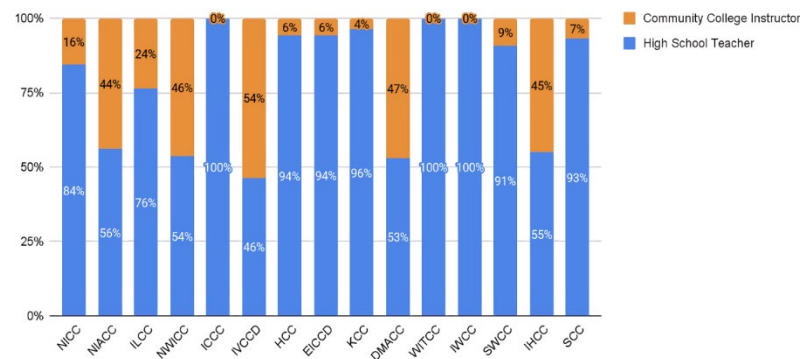
Iowa Community College Districts



### CTE Student Headcount by Site (2023-2024) More than 2/3 of the state's CTE students are secondary.



### High School CTE Concurrent Enrollment Teacher Type



The above chart (left) shows that 2/3rds of the state's CTE students are secondary (high school students) and the majority of those receive the programming at their high school site. The chart above (right) shows the percentage of CTE Concurrent Enrollment faculty are High School Teachers (blue bar) or Community College Instructors (orange bar) by Community College.

## Iowa Community College K12 Table of Comparisons

The link below will open a table of comparisons broken down by community college for various aspects found in the K12 Agreements including: Base Costs for SD Instructor at HS, CC Provided Instructor Fee, Tuition per Credit Hour, Online Course, Textbook Supply Cost, High-Cost Program Fees (CTE Academy) and CTE Student Commitment. [See Community College Table of Comparison.](#)

## Summary Report: Iowa Community College Contract Analysis (2025-2026 Models)

This report summarizes the trends and extremes in financial models, administrative oversight, and unique provisions across the concurrent enrollment contracts for nine Iowa Community Colleges.

**Community College Tuition Varies:** General Community College Tuition can vary based on whether courses are for liberal arts, career and technical, or for a high-cost credentialing program (such as IT, Nursing, paramedic, etc.). The published tuition rates range from \$201 per credit hour (DMACC) to \$233 per credit hour (WITCC), and typically there are fees, books (textbooks or online subscription

access) equipment, and consumables, with either the school district or the community college financially responsible. These charges cannot be passed on to students.

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## Financial Trends and Ranges

The contracts reveal two primary pricing strategies: percentage-based tuition and fixed-fee charging.

**1. Lowest and Highest Base Costs (SD-Instructor Taught).** These courses are typically but not always taught at the high school by a qualified teacher paid by the school district.

- **Lowest Cost (Percentage Model):** Several Community Colleges have similar formulas for the low end of a percentage of tuition model for courses taught by the school district employee: Iowa Lakes CC (ILCC) charges 17% of tuition plus books, fees), Iowa Central CC (ICCC) charges 21% of prior year's tuition plus fees, Kirkwood Community College has two different rates, either 20% or 22% of tuition.
- **Highest Cost (Percentage Model):** Iowa Valley Community College District (IVCCD) charges the highest percentage for SD-taught courses at 45% of in-state tuition, Eastern Iowa Community College (EICC) charges 32.5% of tuition, North Iowa Community College (NCC) comes in at 30% of tuition.
- **Fixed-Fee Models: Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC)** charges \$150 per student per course, and Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) charges \$195 per student per course. These models offer budget certainty regardless of the course's credit hours.
- **Other Models:** Southeast Iowa Community College (SCC) charge \$85 per credit hour for CTE Courses (for comparison, a typical 3-credit hour course would cost the school district \$255 plus books, equipment, etc.), and Western Iowa Tech Community College has a \$842 fee per section, up to 3 sections, plus \$89 per student for courses taught by the high school instructor.

## 2. Cost for College-Provided Instruction (CC-Instructor Taught)

When the community college provides the instructor (at an academy, on the college campus, or online), the costs rise significantly, which makes sense because the instructional, salary and benefits and employment liability is held by the college. In several instances, if the community college instructor teaches at the high school location, there is a proration of their salary and benefits, sometimes mileage reimbursement, plus the cost per credit hour/tuition based on the number of students. Here are some of the models:

- **Highest Cost:** Southwestern Community College (SWCC) charges the highest rate, billing the School District 90% of tuition and fees for CC-led courses (including their IT and Nurse Assisting Academies).
- **Highest Flat Fee (Career Academy):** The SWCC Carpentry Academy requires the highest annual commitment at a flat rate of \$4,800 per student per year.
- **High-Cost Rate Consistency:** Most colleges charge in the 75%-90% range or use a flat fee (DMACC career academy at \$2,600 per year) for CC-led courses.
- **Minimum Enrollment:** Most tuition-based models (EICC, ICC, SWCC for example) specify a minimum class size, typically 5 to 8 students, or bill the District for the minimum threshold if enrollment falls short. Kirkwood Community College has a specific constraint, requiring 15 students for the school district to receive the favored 80% tuition rate on Arts & Sciences Regional Center courses.

### 3. Textbook and Material Responsibility The responsibility for textbook and supply costs varies sharply:

- **SD Responsibility:** Most colleges require the School District to purchase or provide all textbooks and supplies for SD-taught courses.
- **CC Responsibility:** In high-cost CC-led academies, the Community College often provides the books (e.g., Kirkwood's Regional Center, SWCC's \$90 fee per programs, though the SD is still typically billed for digital access codes or damaged returns and may be billed for all textbook and digital access based on the contract and the program.

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## Unique Contract Models

- **Revenue Sharing (ICCC):** ICC offers a unique financial incentive: if the concurrent enrollment course enrolls students who are not high school students (traditional community college students), the college will pay the School District two-thirds (2/3's) of the tuition generated from those students.
- **Zero-Cost Programs (SWCC):** SWCC utilizes a Tuition/Fee model for specific Summer CTE courses, likely funded entirely through grants, or potentially some state funding, provided the programs are short-term and CC-led.
- **Fixed-Rate Escalation (SCC):** Southeastern Community College (SCC) uses a multi-year contract where the cost is set at fixed dollar amounts per credit hour (e.g., \$65 per credit hour), with a pre-defined annual rate escalation over the contract period.
- **Full-Year Commitment (SWCC Carpentry):** The SWCC Carpentry Academy contract uniquely requires a full-year student commitment; if a student drops, the School District is billed for both semesters.

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## Sources

In addition to reviewing contracts obtained from school districts for much of this information, additional information on tuition charges per credit hour, locations, and other details were obtained from the Community Colleges for Iowa website <https://www.ccfioriowa.org/our-community-colleges?show=type&view=list&page=2>, each individual community college's website for tuition per credit hour information, and the Iowan's for Tax Relief Look into the Finances of Iowa Community Colleges in 2024, <https://itrfoundation.org/a-look-into-the-finances-of-iowas-community-colleges/>. DE's presentation to the State Board of Education re Perkins funding formula, Dec. 4, 2025 DE staff shared the slides of count of high school students in CTE programs and the HS Teacher or CC Instructor information by community college.

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## Contact Information

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