

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents
Career and Technical Education Administrators
Instructional Leaders
School Counselors
Regional Career Specialists

FROM: Kayce Cook, EdD
Director, Office of Career Readiness

DATE: February 10, 2026

RE: Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Dual Credit Clarification

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has reviewed current practices regarding academic weighting for Project Lead the Way (PLTW) courses and is issuing this clarification to ensure compliance with state regulations and consistency across districts.

After extensive internal review and consideration of feedback from schools and districts, it has been determined that PLTW courses will no longer be eligible for dual credit weighting beginning in the 2026–27 academic year. This decision reflects the need to align with State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 43-234 and the Uniform Grading Policy (UGP).

Rationale

Under the current practice, PLTW courses may initially receive college preparatory or honors weighting. However, if students opt to take the PLTW end-of-course assessment, achieve a qualifying score, and pay associated fees, the course is often retroactively adjusted to reflect dual credit weighting through a modified course code.

This practice raises several issues:

- **Non-compliance with SBE Regulation 43-234**, which defines dual credit as high school coursework that earns simultaneous college credit through a pre-established agreement with a postsecondary institution.

- **Limitations in the Uniform Grading Policy (UGP)**, which state that enhanced weighting applies only when coursework earns both high school and college credit and contributes toward an associate degree, baccalaureate degree, or industry-recognized credential.
- **Equity and data integrity**, as students in the same course with the same final grade may receive different academic weightings based on optional exam participation.

These issues create inconsistencies in student GPA calculations and undermine the principles of transparency, accountability, and fairness within South Carolina's uniform grading system.

What's Changing

Beginning with the 2026–27 academic year:

- PLTW courses will no longer be eligible for dual credit weighting.
- PLTW courses may continue to receive honors or college preparatory weighting, in accordance with local district policy and course designation.

This adjustment ensures that academic credit and quality points are awarded consistently and in accordance with SBE regulations.

Continued Pathways for College Credit

This change does not diminish the value of PLTW courses. These courses continue to serve as rigorous, industry-aligned opportunities that prepare students for high-wage, high-demand STEM careers.

Students may still pursue college credit for PLTW courses through the American Council on Education (ACE). ACE has evaluated and recommended seven PLTW courses for college credit, which are listed in the [ACE National Guide](#). For comprehensive information regarding receiving college credit for PLTW courses, please visit [PLTW's Student Opportunity Page](#).

However, be advised that beginning in the 2026-27 academic year, dual credit weighting cannot be awarded for PLTW courses regardless of college credit received.

Questions and Support

For questions related to this guidance or PLTW academic weighting, please contact the Office of Career Readiness at: careerreadiness@ed.sc.gov