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## School Improvements

When sitting down to write this essay, I found myself staring at a blank document, struggling to come up with a topic. Finding something I would like to change in my school was surprisingly difficult. I realized in my struggle how grateful I am to attend such a great school. Westran provides its students with a multitude of academic opportunities, valuable curriculum, and dedicated teachers who demand excellence. I have few criticisms however; a recurring frustration came to mind. In the final two years of high school many students are looking to fill their schedules with dual credit classes in order to get ahead in college. Westran provides various dual credit classes however; many subjects lack the option of college credit because the teacher is not certified to teach it. Many students have felt my same frustration and in my opinion, certification to teach dual credit should be required for all teachers whose subject has the potential to be taken for dual credit.

Dual credit classes are beneficial because they allow students to earn credit towards their high school diploma while simultaneously earning college credit as well. Dual credit classes typically cost less and can help students graduate college early. Students who are enrolled in dual credit classes also have access to many facilities at the college the class is taught through. Taking college level classes in high school prepares you for college and students are taught in a small classroom setting which is more conducive to learning compared to large lecture halls. Dual credit courses provide opportunities for students to get a taste of college while still in high school, which allows for a smoother transition into college.

I asked a few teachers what their thoughts were on this particular topic. One teacher stood out when she said that not all teachers have the financial means to pursue further schooling. To solve this issue, the school should provide funding for teachers already employed

by the school, to fulfill the requirements in order to teach dual credit. The school should financially assist the process in order to encourage more teachers to get certified. Financial assistance would not mean that the funding for someone's entire education would be the responsibility of the school; however some assistance, possibly in the form of scholarships, would significantly help the teachers.

While we are grateful for the numerous preexisting dual credit opportunities, many students are frustrated because some subject areas are not available to take for dual credit. Requiring teachers to get certified to teach dual credit, would improve the education of students because it creates a more rigorous learning environment and prepares students for college. Some teachers lack the financial means to attend further schooling. To solve this issue the school should financially assist teachers that are already employed by the school district, to further their education. I believe the benefits of dual credit courses outweigh the financial deficit. Improvement in education is the main priority and dual credit is an amazing opportunity for students and should be available in all subject areas.