



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 178

February Session, 2026

Substitute Senate Bill No. 427

Senate, March 25, 2026

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. SLAP of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10-221w of the 2026 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

4 (a) As used in this section:

5 (1) "Advanced course or program" means an honors class, advanced
6 placement class, International Baccalaureate program, Cambridge
7 International program, dual enrollment, dual credit, early college or any
8 other advanced or accelerated course or program offered by a local or
9 regional board of education in grades nine to twelve, inclusive; [and]

10 (2) "Prior academic performance" means the course or courses that a
11 student has taken, the grades received for such course or courses and a
12 student's grade point average; and

13 (3) "Dual enrollment course" and "concurrent enrollment course"
14 have the same meanings as provided in section 10a-35d.

15 (b) Not later than July 1, 2022, each local and regional board of
16 education shall adopt a policy, or revise an existing policy, concerning
17 the eligibility criteria for student enrollment in an advanced course or
18 program. Such policy shall provide for multiple methods by which a
19 student may satisfy the eligibility criteria for enrollment in an advanced
20 course or program, including, but not limited to, recommendations
21 from teachers, administrators, school counselors or other school
22 personnel. Such eligibility criteria shall not be based exclusively on a
23 student's prior academic performance and any use of a student's prior
24 academic performance shall rely on evidence-based indicators of how a
25 student will perform in an advanced course or program.

26 (c) Any policy adopted or revised and implemented under this
27 section shall be in accordance with guidance provided by the
28 Department of Education.

29 (d) (1) Not later than July 1, 2026, the Commissioner of Education
30 shall, in partnership with the constituent units of the state system of
31 higher education and independent institutions of higher education, as
32 defined in section 10a-173, develop a model agreement between
33 secondary schools and postsecondary institutions for the provision of
34 dual enrollment courses and concurrent enrollment courses, as such
35 terms are defined in section 10a-35d, and postsecondary credit courses
36 to students in grades nine to twelve, inclusive.

37 (2) Not later than January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Education
38 shall appoint a dual and concurrent enrollment course coordinator to
39 track the establishment of such courses throughout the state and student
40 outcomes from such courses, including, but not limited to, completion
41 rates and average grades, by school district.

42 (e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year
43 thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall, within available
44 appropriations, establish a fee-waiver grant program to expand

45 opportunities for high-need high school students to access advanced
 46 courses or programs, including, but not limited to, dual and concurrent
 47 enrollment courses. A local or regional board of education or institution
 48 of higher education in the state may apply, in a form and manner
 49 prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, for reimbursement for
 50 any fees charged to such board or incurred by such institution for any
 51 high-need student who enrolls in an advanced course or program. No
 52 institution of higher education that receives a grant pursuant to this
 53 subsection shall charge the parents of a student for the cost of enrolling
 54 in the advanced course or program for which such institution received
 55 the grant.

56 (f) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year
 57 thereafter, the Commissioner of Education may, within available
 58 appropriations, pay up to five hundred thousand dollars in a fiscal year
 59 to the State Education Resource Center for programming that provides
 60 direct support to local and regional boards of education in the
 61 articulation and expansion of dual credit courses. In expending such
 62 funds under this subsection, the State Education Resource Center shall
 63 give priority to providing funds to alliance districts.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	10-221w

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Constituent Units of Higher Education	OF - Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential

Note: OF=Other Funds

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Reduces Revenue Gain	Potential	Potential

Explanation

The bill results in a potential revenue gain annually beginning in FY 27 to the constituent units of higher education. The bill expands an existing grant program to any Connecticut institution of higher education, which will be eligible to receive a grant for reimbursement for the revenue loss related to fee waivers for certain dually and concurrently enrolled high school students. To the extent funds are provided to institutions of higher education, there will be less funds available for local and regional boards of education, which are the currently authorized grant recipients.

PA 25-168, the FY 26 and FY 27 Budget, requires the State Department of Education to administer a grant program for a high-need student fee waiver for dual enrollment beginning in FY 27, and provides \$6 million for the program. To the extent that the bill shifts funding for the grant to the constituent units of higher education, they would experience a

revenue gain. At the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, fee waivers for dually and concurrently enrolled high school students result in an estimated revenue loss of \$21.3 million in FY 26.

The bill does not increase funding for the program. This means that any increase in funding provided to the constituent units or other institutions of higher education as a result of the bill reduces funding available for other recipients, which are local and regional school districts.

The bill additionally requires SDE to appoint a dual and concurrent enrollment course coordinator and makes other clarifying changes. These changes have no fiscal impact.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of high-need student fee waivers granted and corresponding reimbursement provided to the constituent units of higher education.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 427*****AN ACT CONCERNING DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the state Department of Education (SDE) to appoint a dual and concurrent enrollment course coordinator by January 1, 2027, to track establishment of these courses and student outcomes, such as completion rates and grades, by school district. Dual and concurrent enrollment courses are a type of advanced course or program offered by high schools in collaboration with higher education institutions (see BACKGROUND).

Existing law, beginning in FY 27, creates a high-need student fee-waiver grant program to expand opportunities for high-need high school students to access advanced courses or programs. Currently, only a school board can apply to SDE for reimbursement for fees, such as tuition, paid on behalf of a high-need student. The bill also allows higher education institutions to apply for reimbursement for fee waivers given to a high-need student in an advanced class or program. But the bill specifies that higher education institutions that receive a grant cannot charge the student's parents any course or program enrollment costs.

The bill also makes minor clarifying changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2026

BACKGROUND***Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Courses***

PA 25-99 defined both "concurrent enrollment course" and "dual enrollment course" as postsecondary education courses in any academic subject or career-oriented pathway for high school students

simultaneously enrolled in a higher education institution. However, concurrent enrollment courses are delivered at high schools and taught by high school teachers and dual enrollment courses are taught by higher education institution faculty members.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/17/2026)