

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: SB-427 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS.

Vote Date: 3/17/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/10/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee (HED)

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to expand dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities for high-need students by directing the Commissioner of Education to establish a reimbursement program for local school districts and institutions of higher education to offset the cost of fee waivers issued to high-need students beginning in FY 2027. Additionally, this bill would create a dual and concurrent course enrollment coordinator to track the creation and student outcomes of dual and concurrent enrollment courses.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

The Substitute Language adds concurrent enrollment programs, where students take college courses at their high school with the approval of an institution of higher education, to the bill in addition to dual enrollment courses, which are taught on-site at a participating college or university.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Connecticut State Colleges and Universities \(CSCU\), Interim Chancellor, Dr. John Maduko](#): Interim Chancellor Maduko emphasized the importance of dual enrollment programs as a means of reducing the overall cost of a college education, reinforcing CSCU's commitment to expanding K-12 partnerships. He asked that the committee also include concurrent enrollment programs in this bill and described the establishment of a dual enrollment coordinator and need-based scholarship program as meaningful steps.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Danbury Public Schools, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Kara Casimiro: Dr. Casimiro highlighted the importance of dual enrollment to align K-12 education with career and degree pathways. She described Danbury's current dual enrollment model and challenges coordinating offerings with the CSCU system. She urges continued funding for regional positions to ensure that dual enrollment is successful statewide.

University of New Haven, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Nancy Ortins Savage, et al.: UNH described the advantages of dual enrollment for collegebound students, including significant cost savings, preparation for the academic rigor of college, expanded course offerings, a competitive edge in college admissions, and a smoother transition between high school and college.

The Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges (CCIC), President, Jennifer Widness: Ms. Widness expanded on the benefits of dual enrollment, including allowing students to obtain their degrees faster and at a lower cost. She highlighted that over half of the participating colleges in the state are nonprofit institutions. She also expressed support for the creation of a state dual enrollment coordinator and highlighted the importance of targeted financial assistance to make dual enrollment opportunities accessible to all.

University of Connecticut, Executive Director of the Office of Early College Programs, Christopher Todd: Mr. Todd highlighted UConn's current dual enrollment offerings through the University's Early College Experience (ECE) program. The program currently serves 20,855 students, 44% of whom identify as First Generation. He encouraged the committee to amend the bill to include concurrent enrollment in addition to dual enrollment. He also suggested an amendment that would allow institutions of higher education to apply for feewaiver reimbursements directly with the Commissioner of Education, rather than having families pay the cost upfront, which he states will create financial barriers to accessing dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Kyle Lowry

Date: 3/19/2026