

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 26-18—sSB 427

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

SUMMARY: This act requires the state Department of Education (SDE) commissioner 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 average 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 (within available appropriations) to expand opportunities for high-need high school students to access advanced courses or programs. Under prior law, only a school board could apply to SDE for reimbursement under the program for fees that were paid on behalf of a high-need student. The act 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 specifies that higher education institutions that receive a grant cannot charge the student's parents any course or program enrollment costs.

The act 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. Concurrent enrollment courses are delivered at high schools and taught by high school teachers, while dual enrollment courses are taught by higher education institution faculty members.