



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 427

February Session, 2026



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2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof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.

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

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*