



Substitute Senate Bill No. 427

Public Act No. 26-18

AN ACT CONCERNING DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS.

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

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 Section 10-221w of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section:

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

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

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

(b) Not later than July 1, 2022, each local and regional board of education shall adopt a policy, or revise an existing policy, concerning

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the eligibility criteria for student enrollment in an advanced course or program. Such policy shall provide for multiple methods by which a student may satisfy the eligibility criteria for enrollment in an advanced course or program, including, but not limited to, recommendations from teachers, administrators, school counselors or other school personnel. Such eligibility criteria shall not be based exclusively on a student's prior academic performance and any use of a student's prior academic performance shall rely on evidence-based indicators of how a student will perform in an advanced course or program.

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

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

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

(e) For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Commissioner of Education shall, within available appropriations, establish a fee-waiver grant program to expand opportunities for high-need high school students to access advanced courses or programs, including, but not limited to, dual and concurrent

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enrollment courses. A local or regional board of education or institution of higher education in the state may apply, in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, for reimbursement for any fees charged to such board or incurred by such institution for any high-need student who enrolls in an advanced course or program. No institution of higher education that receives a grant pursuant to this subsection shall charge the parents of a student for the cost of enrolling in the advanced course or program for which such institution received the grant.

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