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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1434 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY ISAACSON, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, McNEILL, STURLA,  
SMITH-WADE-EL, DELLOSO, PARKER, SANCHEZ, KINSEY, MERSKI AND  
KRAJEWSKI, JUNE 20, 2023

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 20, 2023

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AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," providing for the dual credit  
6 innovation and equity grant program.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an  
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XV-N

13 DUAL CREDIT INNOVATION AND EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM

14 Section 1501-N. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases shall have the meanings given  
16 to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates  
17 otherwise:

18 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
19 Commonwealth.

1 "Dual credit." Credit received under an agreement between a  
2 school entity and an institution of higher education approved to  
3 operate in the Commonwealth in which a student earns both high  
4 school and postsecondary credit by taking a single postsecondary  
5 course.

6 "Grant." A grant provided under the program.

7 "Program." The Dual Credit Innovation and Equity Grant  
8 Program established in section 1502-N.

9 "Public institution of higher education." An institution of  
10 the State System of Higher Education established under Article  
11 XX-A, a community college established under Article XIX-A,  
12 Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology established under Article  
13 XIX-B or the rural regional college established under Article  
14 XIX-G.

15 "School entity." A school district, area career and  
16 technical school, charter school, cyber charter school or  
17 regional charter school.

18 Section 1502-N. Dual Credit Innovation and Equity Grant  
19 Program.

20 (a) Establishment.--The Dual Credit Innovation and Equity  
21 Grant Program is established within the department to award  
22 grants to public institutions of higher education that offer  
23 dual credit opportunities to high school students enrolled in a  
24 school entity.

25 (b) Use of funds.--Program funds shall be used for the  
26 purpose of increasing the capacity for public institutions of  
27 higher education to provide dual credit courses. Funds awarded  
28 through a grant may be used for the following:

29 (1) To operate dual credit courses that are tuition free  
30 to high school students.

1           (2) To support public institutions of higher education  
2 in seeking external accreditation for their dual credit  
3 courses.

4           (3) To provide a system of wraparound student supports  
5 to aid students enrolled in dual credit courses to be  
6 successful in the courses and to successfully transition to  
7 postsecondary education upon graduation from high school.

8           (4) To increase the use of no-cost or low-cost textbooks  
9 or course materials used in dual credit courses.

10           (5) For professional development activities for high  
11 school teachers to enable them to teach dual credit courses.

12       (c) Priority.--The department shall give priority in grant  
13 funding to public institutions of higher education that expand  
14 the current offerings of the public institution of higher  
15 education, with a particular emphasis on providing courses  
16 aligned with high priority career paths and serving students  
17 experiencing education instability as defined in section 1331.1,  
18 students enrolled in career and technical education programs,  
19 low-income students, historically underserved student groups and  
20 students in rural areas of the Commonwealth.

21 Section 1503-N. Reporting and accountability.

22       For the purpose of improving data collection and transparency  
23 related to the value of dual credit courses to the success of  
24 students as they graduate high school and transition to  
25 postsecondary education, the department shall annually collect  
26 student-level data from grant recipients and post aggregate, de-  
27 identified information related to all of the following on the  
28 department's publicly accessible Internet website:

29           (1) The demographics of students enrolled in dual credit  
30 courses.

1       (2) The high school graduation rate of students enrolled  
2 in dual credit courses.

3       (3) The percentage of economically disadvantaged  
4 students enrolled in dual credit courses and the percentage  
5 of students enrolled in dual credit courses who are  
6 economically disadvantaged.

7       (4) The percentage of dual credit students who enroll in  
8 a regionally accredited postsecondary institution the fall  
9 after graduation, within one year and within two years after  
10 high school graduation.

11       (5) The number of college credits earned by students  
12 enrolled in dual credit courses while in high school.

13       (6) An estimate of the cost savings to the families of  
14 students enrolled in dual credit courses.

15       (7) The percentage of dual credit students who enroll in  
16 a community college, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology  
17 or the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College following high  
18 school graduation and go on to graduate or transfer to a  
19 four-year institution within two, three and four years of  
20 high school graduation.

21       (8) The percentage of dual credit students who enroll in  
22 a State System of Higher Education institution following high  
23 school graduation and go on to graduate in four, five or six  
24 years.

25       (9) The percentage of dual credit students who attend  
26 postsecondary institutions located in Pennsylvania following  
27 graduation compared to those who attend out-of-State  
28 postsecondary institutions.

29       Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.