

# Dual Enrollment Legislation in SREB States, 2019

## Summary

In 2019, legislators in all 16 SREB states introduced bills on accelerated learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and early college. Fifteen states enacted bills into law, 10 of those adopting dual enrollment legislation. An accompanying document, *2019 Legislation by State and Theme*, displays adopted dual enrollment legislation by the following targeted themes: Access, Faculty, Financial Aid, Funding & Cost, Programs and Agreements, Students & Student Services, Transferability, and Workforce/CTE. As this analysis shows, several SREB states addressed dual enrollment through a range of topics.

The new legislation advances dual enrollment to increase student access and financial aid while addressing regional and state workforce needs. Several of the new bills call for dedicated or increased funding sources coupled with enhanced workforce development, often in specified economic sectors. Examples are Arkansas's Concurrent Challenge Scholarship, Florida's Career and Technical Education Graduation Pathway, The Kentucky Work Ready Scholarship, The Governor's Investment in Vocational Education Act in Tennessee, and Virginia's College and Career Access Pathway Partnerships.

Dual enrollment is highlighted in legislation adopted by West Virginia to establish the WV Invest Grant — a “free community college” financial aid program — and promote Advanced Career Education pathways as a means to address workforce needs through improved alignment of secondary and postsecondary programs. The Louisiana legislature created a Dual Enrollment Taskforce and set a deadline for a planning process to establish a framework to achieve universal access to statewide dual enrollment courses.

Other states adopted legislation to address more specific issues pertaining to dual enrollment. The Texas legislature mandated consistency and reliability of terminology, advising, and other measures to assist students and parents in evaluating dual credit agreements. Student access and faculty training and availability, specifically in regard to career and technical education, are the focus of legislation adopted in Maryland, North Carolina, and Virginia.

In 2019, legislatures throughout SREB states explored ways that dual enrollment might expand opportunities for high school students to accelerate their learning. Cost and the transfer of college credit are shared concerns. Dual enrollment is advanced as a strategy for high school students to earn college credit and, by doing so, shorten their time to degree completion and lower the cost of a college education. Legislators, educators and other policymakers are showing continued interest in the potential of dual enrollment as a successful, efficient strategy for students, employers and states.

The following list highlights key dual enrollment issues in legislation passed during the 2019 legislative session in SREB states. The attached matrix correlates bill summaries with themes: Access, Faculty, Financial Aid, Funding & Cost, Programs & Agreements, Students & Students Services, Transferability and Workforce/CTE.

- **AR ACT 429** prohibits school districts or an open-enrollment charter from charging a private or home instruction student for the cost of an endorsed concurrent enrollment course.
- **AR ACT 456** establishes the Arkansas Concurrent Challenge Scholarship Program to provide financial aid covering tuition expenses for junior and senior students participating in concurrent enrollment courses; provides that the scholarship program be funded after the Workforce Challenge Scholarship has received sufficient funding; and provides for award amounts.
- **FL House Bill 7071** identifies a number of requirements for Florida's system of career dual enrollment, including courses offered through career certificate clock hour programs and career associate degree programs that lead to an industry certification. It also establishes a new high school CTE graduation pathway in the 2019-20 school year allowing students to pursue a Career and Technical Education Graduation Pathway as an alternative pathway to earning a standard high school diploma.
- **KY House Bill 61** allows Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship program funds to be used for qualified workforce training programs in one of the state's top five high-demand work sectors; requires programs to have a current articulation agreement for postsecondary credit hours with a participating institution; and allows students to apply KEES funds towards registered apprenticeship programs.
- **KY Senate Bill 98** establishes the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program to promote affordable access to an industry-recognized certificate, diploma, or associate of applied science degree; requires that eligible programs lead to an industry-recognized certificate, diploma, or associate of applied science degree in one of the state's top five high-demand workforce sectors; and requires that the award equal the amount charged by an eligible institution for an approved dual credit course and limits the award to two approved dual credit courses per academic year.
- **LA Senate Bill 243** creates the Dual Enrollment Framework Task Force to make recommendations for the creation of a statewide dual enrollment framework to provide universal access to dual enrollment courses; and requires the Board of Regents to submit a written report of task force findings and recommendations to the legislature by October 1, 2020.
- **MD House Bill 440** revises the number of new Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) Planning Grants that may be awarded to a local school system in each year from zero to three.
- **NC Senate Bill 366** permits certain grade 9 and 10 students to enroll in college courses as part of a college transfer pathway and directs the state board to deem certain individuals qualified to work as adjunct CTE instructors in K-12 schools.
- **TN House Bill 111** calls for fully funding the dual enrollment grant program from net proceeds of the state lottery before funds are transferred to the Tennessee Promise scholarship endowment fund.

- **TN House Bill 353** allows persons who receive certified occupational training as a prisoner or a student in a high school technical training class to receive equivalent credit toward an occupational license relating to the training received.
- **TN House Bill 740** charges the Tennessee Higher Education Commission with administering grants related to work-based learning programs, establishes a new definition of “qualified work-based learning student,” and requires THEC to submit an annual report detailing the academic credit attainment of participants and an overview of each program.
- **TN House Bill 745** increases the Tennessee Middle College Scholarship award from \$600 to \$1,000 each semester for full-time attendance.
- **TN House Bill 1415** expands the state dual enrollment grant program by allowing high achieving students to take two additional dual enrollment courses per semester and caps at 10 the number of courses for which a student may receive a dual enrollment grant.
- **TN Senate Bill 805** enacts the Governor’s Investment in Vocational Education Act; makes various changes to the dual enrollment grant program; and specifies that financial assistance received for all dual enrollment courses attempted after the fourth dual enrollment course reduces any subsequent award of the Tennessee HOPE scholarship.
- **TX House Bill 3** allows school districts to be reimbursed for the cost of transporting a dual credit student to another campus in the district, another district, or a postsecondary educational institution if the course is not available at the student’s campus.
- **TX House Bill 114** requires high school counselors to provide information to students relating to the availability of college credit awarded for military experience, education, and training obtained during military service.
- **TX House Bill 3650** requires that an agreement between a public school district and a public institution of higher education providing a dual credit program consider the use of free or low-cost open educational resources in courses offered under the program.
- **TX Senate Bill 25** enacts measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation of students and requires institutions to provide an annual report with detail on courses for which incoming transfer students are not granted academic credit.
- **TX Senate Bill 1276** requires that an agreement between a public school district and a public institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program entered into or renewed on or after September 1, 2019: (a) establish common advising strategies and terminology; (b) provide for the alignment of certain endorsements; and (c) identify tools to assist school counselors, students, and families in selecting endorsements offered under the agreement.
- **TX Senate Bill 1324** requires students who earn 15 semester credit hours of dual credit to file a degree plan with the institution of higher education granting the dual credit.
- **VA House Bill 2018** requires the Board of Education to review and revise its Career and Technical Education Work-Based Learning Guide to expand students’ opportunities to earn credit for graduation through high-quality work-based learning experiences such as job shadowing, mentorships, internships, and externships.

- **VA House Bill 2123** permits local school boards to enter into College and Career Access Pathways Partnerships and requires that any such partnership specify: (a) the options for students to take courses as part of the career and technical education curriculum leading to course credit or an industry-recognized credential, certification, or license concurrent with a high school diploma; (b) the credit, credentials, certifications, or licenses available for such courses; and (c) available options for students to participate in pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs at comprehensive community colleges concurrent with the pursuit of a high school diploma and to receive college credit and high school credit for successful completion of any such program.
- **VA Senate Bill 1575** requires that the state board provide for the issuance of a three-year license to teach only career and technical education courses or dual enrollment courses at public high schools in the Commonwealth to any individual who: (a) is employed as an instructor by an institution of higher education accredited by a nationally recognized regional accreditation body; (b) is teaching in the specific career and technical education or dual enrollment subject area in which the individual seeks to teach at a public school; and (c) complies with certain additional requirements.
- **WV Senate Bill 1** creates WV Invest Grant, a “free community college” financial aid program providing last-dollar tuition coverage for students pursuing an advanced certification or associate degree. The bill also authorizes new Advanced Career Education programs and pathways. ACE programs must begin when a student is in secondary education and ultimately lead, at little or no cost to the student, to an advanced certification or associate degree that satisfies a workforce need. Beginning in 2021, state appropriations seeking to alleviate the cost of obtaining advanced certifications and associate degrees will be available only to community and technical colleges or public baccalaureate institutions that have established one or more partnerships in support of ACE programs and pathways.

# 2019 Legislation by State and Theme

State	Access	Faculty	Financial Aid	Funding & Cost	Programs & Agreements	Students & Student Services	Transferability	Workforce/CTE
Arkansas	ACT 429		ACT 456	ACT 429	ACT 456			
Florida					HB 7071		HB 7071	HB 7071
Kentucky			HB 61; SB 98		HB 61; SB 98			HB 61; SB 98
Louisiana	SB 243							
Maryland				HB 440				
North Carolina	SB 366	SB 366						
Tennessee	HB 353; HB 1415		HB 745; HB 1415; SB 805	HB 111	HB 740; SB 805			HB 740; SB 805
Texas				HB 3; HB 3650	SB 1276	HB 114; SB 1276; SB 1324	SB 25	
Virginia		SB 1575			HB 2123			HB 2018; HB 2123
West Virginia			SB 1		SB 1			SB 1