

Date of Hearing: March 13, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Jose Medina, Chair

ACR 150 (Limón) – As Introduced January 9, 2018

SUBJECT: Dual Enrollment Week.

SUMMARY: Recognizes the week of March 18, 2018, to March 24, 2018, inclusive, as Dual Enrollment Week in California. Specifically, **this resolution:**

- 1) Makes numerous declarations and findings, including, but not limited to:
 - a) Dual enrollment programs offer pupils the opportunity to take challenging college courses while still enrolled in high school;
 - b) Bringing awareness to dual enrollment programs can provide pathways to higher education for all pupils, especially those from underrepresented communities;
 - c) The California Department of Education, school districts, California Community Colleges (CCC), the California State University, the University of California, and nonprofit college access organizations that administer or facilitate the participation in dual enrollment programs have had a long-standing partnership to build participation in dual enrollment in California; and,
 - d) In the 2015–16 fall, winter, spring, and summer terms, there was a total enrollment of 154,651 high school pupils in CCCs.
- 2) Recognizes the week of March 18, 2018, to March 24, 2018, inclusive, as Dual Enrollment Week in California.
- 3) Encourages colleges and universities to visit high schools and take action to help pupils register in dual enrollment courses.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Authorizes the governing board of a school district, upon recommendation of the principal of a student's school of attendance, and with parental consent, to authorize a student who would benefit from advanced scholastic or vocational work to attend a community college as a special part-time or full-time student. Additionally, current law prohibited a principal from recommending, for community college summer session attendance, more than five percent of the total number of students in the same grade level and exempted from the five percent cap a student recommended by his or her principal for enrollment in a college-level summer session course if the course in which the pupil was enrolled met specified criteria. These exemptions were repealed on January 1, 2014 (Education Code (EC) Section 48800, et seq.).
- 2) Prohibits a pupil enrolled in a public school from being required to pay a pupil fee for participation in an educational activity; and, specifies that all of the following requirements apply to the prohibition:

- a) All supplies, materials, and equipment needed to participate in educational activities shall be provided to pupils free of charge;
 - b) A fee waiver policy shall not make a pupil fee permissible;
 - c) School districts and schools shall not establish a two-tier educational system by requiring a minimal educational standard and also offering a second, higher educational standard that pupils may only obtain via payment of a fee or purchase of additional supplies that the school district does not provide; and,
 - d) A school district or school shall not offer course credit or privileges related to educational activities in exchange for money or donations of goods or services from a pupil or a pupil's parents or guardians, and a school district or school shall not remove course credit or privileges related to educational activities, or otherwise discriminate against a pupil, because the pupil or the pupil's parents or guardians did not or will not provide money or donations of goods or services to the school district or school (EC Section 49011).
- 3) Requires the CCC Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) to report to the Department of Finance and Legislature annually on the amount of full-time equivalent students (FTES) claimed by each CCC district for high school pupils enrolled in non-credit, non-degree applicable, and degree applicable courses; and provides that, for purposes of receiving state apportionments, CCC districts may only include high school students within the CCC district's report on FTES if the students are enrolled in courses that are open to the general public, as specified. Additionally, current law requires the governing board of a CCC district to assign a low enrollment priority to special part-time or full-time students in order to ensure that these students do not displace regularly admitted community college students (EC Sections 76001 and 76002).

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS: *Dual enrollment.* According to the United States Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences Transition to College, *What Works Clearinghouse Report* of February 2017, dual enrollment programs allow high school pupils to take college courses and earn college credits while still attending high school.

Such programs, also referred to as concurrent enrollment, dual credit, or early college programs, are designed to increase college access and degree attainment, especially for students typically underrepresented in higher education. According to the report, dual enrollment programs support college credit accumulation and degree attainment via at least three mechanisms:

- 1) Allowing high school students to experience college-level courses helps them prepare for the social and academic requirements of college while having the additional supports available to them as high school pupils (this could reduce the need for developmental coursework).
- 2) Students who accumulate college credits early and consistently are more likely to attain a college degree.
- 3) Many dual enrollment programs offer discounted or free tuition, which reduces the overall cost of college and may increase the number of low socioeconomic status students who can attend and complete college.

Purpose of this resolution. According to the author, there remains a lack of awareness surrounding the benefits of dual enrollment for high school pupils to enroll and take college level course concurrently. The author contends that this, "results in less students engaging an opportunity that has been proven to be effective in increasing rates of high school completion and entrance into higher education particularly for low achieving students".

While the number of high school pupils taking college courses is growing, this resolution seeks to raise more awareness of the dual enrollment option for minors, by encouraging California's institutions of higher education to visit high schools and take proactive measures in assisting high school pupils in registering in dual enrollment courses.

Committee comments and amendments. If the author's goal is to ensure on-going awareness to high school pupils of the unique role dual enrollment can provide them; *the author may wish to consider amending this resolution to simply proclaim every third week of March as "Dual Enrollment Week"*.

Additionally, as presently drafted, this resolution states that, "In the 2015–16 fall, winter, spring, and summer terms, there was a total enrollment of 154,651 high school pupils in California Community Colleges". However, according to the CCCCO, the latest count of high school pupils covering the same period of time is 158,403.

With this in mind, Committee Staff recommends, and the author has agreed to accept, the following amendment: WHEREAS, In the 2015–16 fall, winter, spring, and summer terms, there was a total enrollment of ~~154,651~~ 158,403 high school pupils in California Community Colleges; and

Prior legislation. There have been many bills introduced in the last several years that attempt to address concurrent enrollment and the five percent cap, including, but not limited to the following bills:

- 1) AB 288 (Holden), Chapter 618, Statutes of 2015, in part, until January 1, 2022, authorized the governing board of a community college district to enter into a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership with the governing board of a school district within its immediate service area, as specified, to offer or expand dual enrollment opportunities for students who may not already be college bound or who are underrepresented in higher education with the goal of developing seamless pathways from high school to community college for career-technical education or preparation for transfer, improving high school graduation rates, or helping high school pupils achieve college and career readiness.
- 2) AB 1451 (Holden), of 2014, which was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File, was similar in nature to AB 288 of 2015.
- 3) AB 1540 (Hagman), of 2014, which was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File, would, in part, specify that the governing board of a school district may authorize a pupil, at the recommendation of a community college dean of a computer science department or another appropriate community college computer science administrator, and with parental consent, to attend a community college during any session or term as a special part-time or full-time student and to undertake one or more computer science courses offered at the community college.

- 4) AB 2352 (Chesbro), of 2014, which was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File, would, in part, remove early and middle college high school students concurrently enrolled at a CCC from receiving low priority admission status.
- 5) AB 160 (Portantino), of 2011, which was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense file, removed certain restrictions on concurrent enrollment and authorized school districts to enter into partnerships with CCC districts to provide high school pupils opportunities for advanced scholastic work, career technical or other coursework at CCC campuses.
- 6) AB 230 (Carter), Chapter 50, Statutes of 2011, exempted a pupil attending a middle college high school from the requirement that CCC governing boards assign a low enrollment priority to concurrent enrollment students if that pupil is seeking to enroll in a CCC course that is required for the pupil's middle college high school program.
- 7) SB 1437 (Padilla), Chapter 718, Statutes of 2008, extended the sunset date from January 1, 2009 until January 1, 2014 for which AB 1451 of 2014 sought to further extend the sunset.
- 8) SB 1303 (Runner), Chapter 648, Statutes of 2006, exempted from the specified five percent cap on CCC summer session enrollment, a pupil recommended by his or her principal if the pupil met specified criteria.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file.

Opposition

None on file.

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