

2025 -- S 0889

LC002615

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- DUAL ENROLLMENT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

Introduced By: Senators Burke, Tikoian, Raptakis, Gallo, and Lawson

Date Introduced: March 27, 2025

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 16-100-2 and 16-100-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-100  
2 entitled "Dual Enrollment Equal Opportunity Act" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-100-2. Definition.**

4 "Dual Enrollment" means that a student is enrolled in a secondary school while  
5 simultaneously enrolled part-time or full-time at a ~~local institution of higher learning~~ [Rhode Island](#)  
6 [public higher education institution](#), such as a community college, [college](#), or university.

7 **16-100-3. Policy implemented.**

8 (a) The board of education shall prescribe by regulation a statewide dual enrollment policy  
9 that shall allow students to enroll in courses at ~~postsecondary institutions~~ [public higher education](#)  
10 [institutions, such as a community college, college, or university](#), to satisfy academic credit  
11 requirements in both high school and the aforementioned ~~postsecondary institutions~~ [public higher](#)  
12 [education institutions](#). The regulations shall address the ~~postsecondary~~ [public higher education](#)  
13 institution's graduation requirements, if any; the institution's ability to award degrees/certificates  
14 in Rhode Island; the minimum course grade to receive credit at the student's secondary school; and  
15 any other criteria that the board deems appropriate.

16 (b) The board shall convene a workgroup, including, but not limited to, representatives  
17 from the department of elementary and secondary education, the office of the postsecondary  
18 commissioner, superintendents, school committees, public higher education institutions, guidance  
19 counselors, and teachers. The purpose of the workgroup is to consider and advise the board as to a

1 dual enrollment policy and its possible effect on school funding pursuant to chapter 7.2 of this title;  
2 academic supports; transportation; possible shared costs of the education; possible fee schedules;  
3 manners in which low-income students could access the program; and possible contracted tuition  
4 costs with our public higher education institutions.

5 (c) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, payments to public ~~institutions of~~ higher  
6 education [institutions](#) for dual and concurrent enrollment shall be limited to no greater than the  
7 appropriation contained in the appropriations act. On or before September 30, 2017, the council on  
8 postsecondary education shall promulgate rules and regulations enforcing this limitation.

9 (d) Students in grade twelve (12) enrolled full-time, as defined by the institution, in a dual  
10 enrollment program where the courses are taken ~~on a higher education institution campus~~ [at a public](#)  
11 [higher education institution](#) shall be exempt from the requirements set forth in § 16-22-4(a).

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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- 1           This act would amend the definition of “dual enrollment” to encompass all Rhode Island
- 2 public higher education institutions and amend all statutory references regarding the same.
- 3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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