



HISPANAS
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EQUALITY

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor Newsom Signs AB368 (Holden), Expanding Opportunities for More Underrepresented Students to Get College Credits Early-On

SACRAMENTO, CA (October 9, 2023) — Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) applauds Governor Newsom for signing AB 368, authored by Assemblymember Chris Holden and co-sponsored by HOPE and The Education Trust–West. AB368 will improve access to dual enrollment programs for students who may not already be college-bound or are underrepresented in higher education.

“Through the passage of AB 368, we are removing barriers embedded in California’s education system and supporting the next generation of students who will accelerate college completion, transfer to four-year colleges and universities, and achieve greater upward socio-economic mobility for themselves and their families,” said Helen Torres, CEO of HOPE. “We are grateful to Assemblymember Holden for his visionary leadership in the dual enrollment space, and to Governor for his commitment to California’s students.”

The new law taking effect January 1, will require the governing board of a community college district participating in a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership to enroll high school pupils in any course that is part of a CCAP partnership offered at a community college campus. It also authorizes classes to be provided at the community college campus or the participating high school campus. The new law will also require a community college district to assign priority for enrollment and course registration to a pupil seeking to enroll in a community college course necessary for the pupil’s CCAP partnership program and exempt all pupils seeking to enroll from specified fee requirements.

This new law will allow more high school students to access time and cost saving college courses. It also yields public savings by reducing the time it takes to earn a college degree and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of higher education.

Until 2015, dual enrollment was seen as a privilege afforded to students who were either overperforming in high school or were attending an alternative Middle College High School or Early College High School. CCAP partnerships were not only a policy change, but also represent a fundamental change in how dual enrollment is offered to high school students in California.

Disparities in participation continue to persist, specifically among Black, Latinx, and socioeconomically disadvantaged students – the student population CCAP partnerships are intended to serve. The newly signed law, AB 368, takes an important step in closing opportunity gaps in California’s education system, allowing more students to access resources previously only available to a select few.

About Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) - HOPE® is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has empowered our communities through advocacy, Latina leadership training, and increasing knowledge on the contributions Latinas have made to advance the status of women for the past 32 years. To date, HOPE’s innovative programming has served 65,000 Latinas and touched the lives of several thousand more through our advocacy. For more information on HOPE, please visit [Latinas.org](https://www.latinas.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).