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## **Governor Newsom Signs HOPE-Sponsored AB 1871, Expanding Access to Dual Enrollment for California High School Students**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (September 28, 2026)** -- California Governor Gavin Newsom has signed AB 1871, authored by Assemblymember Mike Fong, into law, taking an important step toward expanding college access for all. Sponsored by HOPE, AB 1871 strengthens the **College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) Dual Enrollment Program** by removing barriers that can prevent high school students from accessing college coursework, simplifying the path to enrollment, and providing students greater flexibility to earn college credit while still in high school.

For students, the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school can provide a meaningful head start toward higher education. Dual enrollment allows students to begin college-level coursework before graduation, potentially reducing the time and cost of completing a degree while helping them gain experience in a college setting. **Yet access to these opportunities remains uneven across California.** [Only 37% of high schools serving more than 75% Black and Latinx students offer dual enrollment.](#)

AB 1871 addresses key barriers for schools and students by streamlining the CCAP application process, removing the requirement for a principal's recommendation, increasing flexibility in course enrollment, and strengthening reporting on student participation and outcomes.

"When more students have access to meaningful pathways to college and careers, the benefits extend beyond the individual to strengthen communities through greater economic opportunity, leadership, and civic participation," **said Xiomara Peña, Vice President of Community Engagement & Innovation of HOPE.** "AB 1871 allows more students to get a strong starting point on college, expanding educational and economic opportunities across California. HOPE is proud to sponsor this legislation and recognizes Assemblymember Mike Fong for his leadership and partnership in advancing this important measure."



"California has made significant investments in creating pathways between high school and college, and we need to ensure students can fully benefit from those opportunities," **said Assemblymember Mike Fong.** "AB 1871 removes barriers to dual enrollment and gives students greater flexibility to earn college credit while in high school. By making these pathways more accessible, we can help more students build momentum toward college and career while making the most of the opportunities available to them."

This is a key victory for HOPE, which has long championed dual enrollment and expanded access to higher education opportunities through the annual Latina Action Day conference in Sacramento, state budget advocacy, and support for legislation that strengthens educational pathways for California students.

HOPE extends its appreciation to the 22+ organizations and advocates who supported AB 1871 and helped secure greater access to dual enrollment opportunities for California's students.

## **What's Next**

With AB 1871 taking effect in January 2027, alongside California's \$100 million state budget investment to expand dual enrollment, the state is strengthening pathways between high school and higher education. HOPE will continue working with policymakers, educators, and community partners to remove barriers and expand opportunity, helping more students build a strong foundation for college, careers, and economic mobility.

## **About HOPE**

HOPE® is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to ensuring political and economic parity for Latinas through leadership, advocacy, and education to benefit all communities and the status of women. HOPE® prepares and supports civic leaders through education and advocacy, centering the Latina perspective as a lens for strengthening democracy and economic mobility. Our programs are inclusive and open to all who wish to learn from this experience. We advance civic education, foster community leadership, and advocate for fair and informed policy solutions that expand opportunity for every community. To learn more visit [www.latinas.org](http://www.latinas.org).