

Assembly Bill 359 – College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) 2.0

Phase 1 of Dual Enrollment Reform

Assemblymember Chris R. Holden

SUMMARY

AB 359 makes practical changes to the existing law surrounding College and Career Pathways to remove barriers encountered by Local Education Agencies and Community Colleges to establish CCAP partnerships. This bill allows for multiple CCAP partnerships, simplifies the application process for students and ensures course pathways are prioritized to ensure students graduate with both high school and college credit.

BACKGROUND

Dual enrollment is an equity based education strategy that has shown to be particularly effective for students from groups who have been historically underserved, such as students of color and first-generation students.¹

All California Community Colleges offer some form of dual enrollment. However, only a small share of California public high schools have formal dual enrollment programs. CCAP has been the primary driver of dual enrollment growth. Notably, 42 percent of students in CCAP schools enrolled in a California Community College after graduation.² Dual enrollment programs assist in degree attainment across student demographics.

Throughout the years there has been legislation to improve and support CCAP. However, Latino and Black students are disproportionately underrepresented in dual enrollment classes. According to an EdSource analysis the reason for this includes misconceptions about who should take dual enrollment classes, a lack of available courses, and a lack of awareness by students, families and high school counselors about the programs.³

On November 6, 2023 the California State Assembly Committee on Higher Education held an Oversight Hearing on the Landscape of Dual Enrollment. This bill addresses concerns and challenges expressed by dual enrollment experts surrounding current implementation barriers.

EXISTING LAW

Education Code Section 76004:

Authorizes the governing board of a community college district (CCD) to enter into a College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnership with the governing board of a school district, with the goal of developing seamless pathways from high school to California Community Colleges (CCC).

THE SOLUTION

AB 359 will:

- Allow all students to participate in CCAP.
- Prioritize enrollment and outreach for students who are underrepresented in higher education.
- Require students to complete one application.
- Removes principal recommendation requirement
- Expand partnership opportunities with more community colleges.
- Allow schools to offer students online courses if an in-person option is unavailable.
- Ensure students earn transferable college credits.

This bill will ensure the longevity and success of CCAP partnerships by removing unnecessary barriers to streamline the creation of CCAP programs that will make dual enrollment the standard in California schools by 2030.

¹ Dual Enrollment for Foster Youth: Toward Effective Practice. Career Ladders Project.

² Dual Enrollment in California: Promoting Equitable Student Access and Success. Public Policy Institute of California

³ "Growing Numbers of California High Schoolers Dual Enroll in College Courses, but Access Uneven Statewide." EdSource,

SUPPORT

California High School District Coalition
EDVoice
Lassen Union High School
Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools

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