

Assembly Bill 103- Dual Enrollment for Court School Students

Assemblymember Chris R. Holden

SUMMARY

Research has demonstrated that dual enrollment helps high school students access, persist in, and graduate from college. Assembly Bill 103 increases access to dual enrollment for students in juvenile court schools and alternative schools, by allowing county offices of education to participate in College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships.

BACKGROUND

Students in juvenile court schools, like foster and homeless youth, experience high rates of educational instability, and are likely to be behind in credits. Less than two-thirds of long-term students in juvenile court schools make academic progress while enrolled at court schools, and 30% actually lose ground (Youth Law Center, 2016). Overall, students in juvenile court schools are more likely to drop out of high school than they are to enroll in college.

However, accessing educational opportunities while in the juvenile hall can be a turning point for these students. Research shows that students in court schools who make academic progress while they are detained are more likely to continue their education, and less likely to be arrested in the future (Blomberg et al., 2011). Youth who make academic progress are also more likely to find employment as adults (Leone & Weinberg, 2012). Furthermore, youth in the juvenile justice system want to go to college; a 2016 survey found that nearly 70% desire to go to college or beyond (Sedlak & Bruce, 2017). Dual enrollment is an opportunity for this uniquely vulnerable population to make academic progress and recover credits while also getting a jump-start on their college education.

Some community colleges in the state, including College of San Mateo and Sacramento City College, have already partnered with probation and county offices of education to create innovative dual enrollment partnerships for youth in court and alternative schools. Other colleges have expressed interest in starting their own programs through CCAP, but have run into barriers, because the current language of the CCAP

statute does not explicitly authorize dual enrollment partnerships with county offices of education.

In the coming years, demand for credit recovery opportunities is likely to increase significantly, schools across California report unprecedented challenges in student attendance and engagement due to COVID-19. Passing this bill now would allow colleges and county offices of education to work proactively towards providing high-quality credit recovery and college engagement opportunities to our most vulnerable youth.

DEFINITIONS

Dual Enrollment and Concurrent Enrollment are often used interchangeably. Dual and concurrent enrollment offer high school students access to college-level coursework.

EXISTING LAW

Education Code §76004:

Authorizes 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 or the governing body of a charter school 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.

THE SOLUTION

AB 103 enables county offices of education to participate in College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) partnerships, which allows students in juvenile court schools to access the benefits of dual enrollment programs.

Support

Support:

Youth Law Center (Sponsor)

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