

AN ACT relating to dual credit scholarships and making an appropriation therefor.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 164.740 TO 164.7891 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) To ensure dual credit coursework remains affordable for eligible Kentucky high school students, the General Assembly hereby establishes the Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

(2) For purposes of this section:

(a) "Academic term" means a semester or other time period specified in an administrative regulation promulgated by the authority;

(b) "Academic year" means a period consisting of at least the minimum school term as defined in KRS 158.070;

(c) "Eligible high school student" means a person who:

1. Is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States and a Kentucky resident;

2. Is enrolled in an eligible high school as a junior or senior;

3. Has either a qualifying cumulative grade point average or a qualifying college readiness benchmark on a college entrance examination as determined by the authority;

4. Is eligible for free or reduced-price lunch during any year of high school enrollment;

5. Is not participating in the early graduation program described in KRS 158.142; and

6. Is enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in a dual credit course at a participating institution;

(d) "High school" means a Kentucky public high school or a private, parochial, or church school located in Kentucky that has been certified by

the Kentucky Board of Education as voluntarily complying with curriculum, certification, and textbook standards established by the Kentucky Board of Education under KRS 156.160; and

(e) "Participating institution" means an "institution" as defined in KRS 164.001 that actively participates in the federal Pell Grant program, executes a contract with the authority on terms the authority deems necessary or appropriate for the administration of its programs, and is a:

1. Kentucky Community and Technical College System institution;
2. Four (4) year Kentucky public college or university; or
3. Four (4) year independent, nonprofit Kentucky college or university licensed by the Council on Postsecondary Education.

(3) The authority shall administer the Dual Credit Scholarship Program and shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS Chapter 13A as may be needed for the administration of the program.

(4) The authority may award a dual credit scholarship to an eligible high school student under this section to the extent funds are available for that purpose.

(5) The maximum dual credit scholarship amount shall be determined by the authority, subject to the availability of funds.

(6) Dual credit scholarship funds may be applied to tuition, textbook, and required instructional material expenses approved by the authority.

(7) Dual credit scholarship funds may not be used for a dual credit course taken more than once by a student.

(8) (a) The dual credit scholarship program trust fund is hereby created as a trust fund in the State Treasury to be administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority for the purpose of providing scholarships described in this section.

(b) The trust fund shall consist of state general fund appropriations, gifts and

grants from public and private sources, and federal funds. All moneys included in the fund shall be appropriated for the purposes set forth in this section.

(c) Any unallotted or unencumbered balances in the trust fund shall be invested as provided in KRS 42.500(9). Income earned from the investments shall be credited to the trust fund.

(d) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any fund balance at the close of the fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year and continuously appropriated only for the purposes specified in this section.