

1 AN ACT relating to the dual credit scholarship program.

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

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 164.786 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) **As used in**~~For purposes of~~ this section:

5 (a) "Academic term" means the fall or spring academic semester;

6 (b) "Academic year" means July 1 through June 30 of each year;

7 (c) "Approved dual credit course" means a dual credit course developed in
8 accordance with KRS 164.098 and shall include:

9 1. General education courses that meet the criteria outlined in the statewide
10 general education core approved by the Council on Postsecondary
11 Education; and

12 2. Career and technical education courses within a career pathway
13 approved by the Kentucky Department of Education that leads to an
14 industry-recognized credential;

15 (d) "Authority" means the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority;

16 (e) "Dual credit" has the same meaning as in KRS 158.007;

17 (f) "Dual credit tuition rate ceiling" means one-third (1/3) of the per credit hour
18 tuition amount, rounded down to the nearest whole dollar, charged by the
19 Kentucky Community and Technical College System for in-state students;

20 (g) **"Eligible youth apprentice" means an eligible high school student that is**
21 **enrolled as a youth apprentice in an eligible registered teacher**
22 **apprenticeship program;**

23 **(h)** "Eligible high school student" means a student who:

24 1. Is a Kentucky resident;

25 2. Is enrolled in a Kentucky high school;

26 3. Has completed a thirty (30) minute college success counseling session;

27 and

- 1 4. Is enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in an approved dual credit course
2 at a participating institution;

3 **(i) "Eligible registered teacher apprenticeship program" means a registered**
4 **teacher apprenticeship program that is:**

5 **1. Offered by a school district, in partnership with one (1) or more**
6 **postsecondary institutions;**

7 **2. Designed to prepare future educators by providing student participants**
8 **a direct pathway towards teacher certification and employment within**
9 **the school district; and**

10 **3. Approved by the Education and Labor Cabinet in accordance with**
11 **KRS Chapter 343 and the authority for the purposes of this section;**

12 ~~(j)~~~~(h)~~ "Participating institution" means a postsecondary institution that:

- 13 1. Has an agreement with the authority for the administration of the Dual
14 Credit Scholarship Program;
- 15 2. Charges no more than the dual credit tuition rate ceiling per credit hour,
16 including any additional fees, for any approved dual credit course it
17 offers to any Kentucky public or nonpublic high school student;
- 18 3. Does not charge any tuition or fees to an eligible high school student for
19 an approved dual credit course beyond what is paid by the Dual Credit
20 Scholarship Program when the course is not successfully completed; and
- 21 4. Is a:
- 22 a. Kentucky Community and Technical College System institution;
- 23 b. Four (4) year Kentucky public college or university; or
- 24 c. Four (4) year private college or university that is accredited by the
25 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and whose main
26 campus is located in Kentucky; and

27 ~~(k)~~~~(i)~~ "Successfully completed" means a student receiving both

1 secondary and postsecondary credit upon completion of an approved dual
2 credit course.

3 (2) To promote dual credit coursework opportunities at no cost to eligible Kentucky
4 high school students, the General Assembly hereby establishes the Dual Credit
5 Scholarship Program.

6 (3) In consultation with the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky
7 Department of Education, the authority shall administer the Dual Credit Scholarship
8 Program and shall promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with KRS
9 Chapter 13A as may be needed for the administration of the program.

10 (4) (a) Each high school shall apply to the authority for dual credit scholarship funds
11 for each eligible high school student.

12 (b) The authority may award a dual credit scholarship to an eligible high school
13 student for an academic term on a first-come, first-served basis by application
14 date, to the extent funds are available for that purpose.

15 (c) An eligible high school student may receive a dual credit scholarship for a
16 maximum of:

17 1. a. Two (2) career and technical education dual credit courses per
18 academic year; and

19 b.~~[2.]~~Two (2) general education dual credit courses over the junior and
20 senior year; or

21 2. *Beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, an eligible youth*
22 *apprentice may receive a total of twenty (20) dual credit courses,*
23 *which shall not exceed eight (8) courses per academic year, that are*
24 *required for completion of a teacher education program in pursuit of*
25 *initial teacher certification.*

26 (d) The dual credit scholarship award amount shall be equal to the amount
27 charged by a participating institution, not to exceed the dual credit tuition rate

1 ceiling for each dual credit hour.

2 (e) Dual credit scholarship funds shall not be used for remedial or developmental
3 coursework.

4 (5) (a) To qualify for the dual credit scholarship under this subsection, a student
5 shall:

6 1. Be approved by a school district to participate as an eligible youth
7 apprentice in an eligible registered teacher apprenticeship program;

8 2. Submit a program commitment form, as required by the authority, that
9 is signed by the student, parent or guardian of a minor student, and
10 superintendent or designee;

11 3. Successfully complete a minimum of one (1) teaching and learning
12 career pathway course each year of high school while participating as
13 an eligible youth apprentice in the eligible registered teacher
14 apprenticeship program until completion of all required pathway
15 courses; and

16 4. Maintain a high school grade point average of 2.75 or higher.

17 (b) An eligible youth apprentice who withdraws from the program or does not
18 achieve the academic criteria for continued eligibility while in high school:

19 1. Shall not be eligible for additional dual credit courses through the
20 eligible registered teacher apprenticeship program;

21 2. May receive additional dual credit scholarships under subsection
22 (4)(c)1. of this section, except course eligibility shall be reduced by the
23 courses taken under subsection (4)(c)2. of this section; and

24 3. Shall be required to repay the authority the dual credit scholarship
25 amount paid for courses that exceed the number of courses provided
26 under subsection (4)(c)1. of this section unless waived by the authority
27 for cause. Any person who fails to repay this obligation to the

1 authority shall not be awarded a grant or scholarship under any
 2 program administered by the authority under KRS Chapter 164 until
 3 all financial obligations to the authority are satisfied, except that
 4 ineligibility for this reason may be waived by the authority for cause.

5 (c) To be considered for approval by the authority as offering an eligible
 6 registered teacher apprenticeship program under this section, the school
 7 district shall:

8 1. Design the program to offer full-time teaching positions within the
 9 home school district to students who complete an eligible registered
 10 teacher apprenticeship program and obtain Kentucky teacher
 11 certification whenever a vacancy permits;

12 2. Establish partnerships with postsecondary institutions for providing
 13 dual credit coursework and matriculation into teacher education
 14 programs upon high school graduation of eligible youth apprentices;

15 3. Ensure that dual credit courses taken by eligible youth apprentices
 16 will be transferable for purposes of completing the teacher education
 17 program at the partner postsecondary institution upon high school
 18 graduation; and

19 4. Execute an agreement with the authority for participation of an
 20 eligible registered teacher apprenticeship program with eligible youth
 21 apprentices under the terms and conditions required by the authority.

22 (6) Each participating institution shall submit information each academic term to the
 23 authority required for the administration of the scholarship as determined by the
 24 authority.

25 (7)~~(6)~~ The authority shall provide an annual report to the secretary of the Education
 26 and Labor Cabinet, the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education and
 27 the commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education to include:

1 (a) The number of students, by local school district and in total, served by the
2 Dual Credit Scholarship Program; and

3 (b) The number of general education and career and technical education dual
4 credits earned by students by high school and in total.

5 ~~(8)~~~~(7)~~ By May 31 of each year, the Kentucky Center for Statistics, in collaboration
6 with the authority, shall publish data on the Dual Credit Scholarship Program's
7 academic and workforce outcomes. The center shall annually provide a report on
8 the data to the Interim Joint Committee on Education.

9 ~~(9)~~~~(8)~~ (a) The Dual Credit Scholarship Program trust fund is hereby created as a
10 trust fund in the State Treasury to be administered by the Kentucky Higher
11 Education Assistance Authority for the purpose of providing scholarships
12 described in this section.

13 (b) The trust fund shall consist of state general fund appropriations, gifts and
14 grants from public and private sources, and federal funds.

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

18 (d) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any fund balance at the close of the fiscal year
19 shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next fiscal year.