

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) 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 high school apprentice" means an eligible high school student**
21 **that is enrolled in an eligible registered teacher apprenticeship program;**

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

23 1. Is a Kentucky resident;

24 2. Is enrolled in a Kentucky high school;

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

27 4. Is enrolled, or accepted for enrollment, in an approved dual credit course

at a participating institution;

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

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

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

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

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

1. Has an agreement with the authority for the administration of the Dual Credit Scholarship Program;

2. Charges no more than the dual credit tuition rate ceiling per credit hour, including any additional fees, for any approved dual credit course it offers to any Kentucky public or nonpublic high school student;

3. Does not charge any tuition or fees to an eligible high school student for an approved dual credit course beyond what is paid by the Dual Credit Scholarship Program when the course is not successfully completed; and

4. Is a:

a. Kentucky Community and Technical College System institution;

b. Four (4) year Kentucky public college or university; or

c. Four (4) year private college or university that is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and whose main campus is located in Kentucky; and

(k)(i) "Successfully completed" means a student receiving both secondary and postsecondary credit upon completion of an approved dual

1 credit course.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3 (5) (a) To qualify for the dual credit scholarship for an eligible registered teacher
4 apprenticeship program, a student shall:

5 1. Be approved by a school district to participate as an eligible high
6 school apprentice in an eligible registered teacher apprenticeship
7 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 in
13 the eligible registered teacher apprenticeship program until
14 completion of all required pathway courses; and

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

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

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

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

1. Design the program to offer full-time teaching positions within the home school district to students who complete an eligible registered teacher apprenticeship program and obtain Kentucky teacher certification whenever a vacancy permits;
2. Establish partnerships with postsecondary institutions for providing dual credit coursework and matriculation into teacher education programs upon high school graduation to participating students;
3. Ensure that dual credit courses taken by students participating in the program will be transferable for purposes of completing the teacher education program at the partner postsecondary institution upon high school graduation; and
4. Execute an agreement with the authority for participation as an eligible registered teacher apprenticeship program under the terms and conditions required by the authority.

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

(7)~~(6)~~ The authority shall provide an annual report to the secretary of the Education and Labor Cabinet, the president of the Council on Postsecondary Education and 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.