

**Connecticut State
Department of Education
Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Commissioner of Education**

Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships



**CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant
2026 - 2027**

Purpose

To establish a grant program that supports the sustainability and growth of dual credit programs led by Connecticut institutions of higher education, with the goal of increasing participation among high-need students.

**Application Due:
October 15, 2026**

**This document is for information only
The application must be completed on-line
through the CSDE website.
No paper or email applications will be accepted.**

Published: August 2026

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Purpose and Background

The Connecticut State Board of Education's Five-Year Comprehensive Plan for Education 2023-2028 prioritizes creating "opportunities for all students to explore multiple career pathways through coordinated and rigorous programs that are developed in partnerships with institutions of higher education (IHEs) and local/regional employers, and that align with economic opportunity and advance students in careers of their choice."

From the 2022-23 to 2024-25 school years, the percentage of grade 11 and 12 students earning three or more college credits before graduation increased from 24.1 percent to 30.7 percent. The Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) goal is to reach 60 percent by the 2027-2028 school year and seeks to increase access to dual credit for high-need students who face significant financial hurdles that limit their participation.

To address this issue, the State will reimburse IHEs for fees associated with courses in which high-need students are enrolled, encouraging increased participation and reducing disparities in access to these opportunities. Additionally, to enhance the impact and effectiveness of the grant program, the CSDE expects IHEs to actively support the development of new and expanded dual credit course offerings.

Eligibility

An applicant must be a Connecticut IHE. To apply, the IHE submits a completed CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant application, including all the required documentation and reporting elements.

To qualify for reimbursement under the CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant, the IHE must demonstrate enrollment of high-need students in dual or concurrent courses during the 2025–2026 school year, with tuition fees waived or absorbed by the IHE to ensure no financial burden on the student or family.

General Information

The CSDE is pleased to offer the CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant, which supports high-need students' participation in dual credit programs. IHEs in the state can apply for reimbursement for fees incurred by high-need students enrolled in dual or concurrent enrollment courses, and to support the expansion of new dual or concurrent enrollment courses offered to school districts.

The specific objectives of the grant include:

1. **Removing Financial Barriers:** Provide financial support to IHEs to ensure that high-need students can enroll in dual and concurrent enrollment courses without incurring tuition costs;
2. **Enhancing Collaborative Partnerships:** Enhancing partnerships between Connecticut IHEs and local public school districts through signed partnership agreements, detailing commitments to support dual enrollment programming;
3. **Expanding Course Offerings:** Promote the expansion of dual and concurrent enrollment courses to include new offerings that align with students' interests and local workforce demands, enhancing academic engagement and relevance; and
4. **Enhancing College and Career Readiness:** Provide early exposure to college-level coursework, skills development, and support services, ensuring high-need students are well-prepared for the rigors of higher education and future career pathways.

The program will also focus on regularly assessing student outcomes, including completion rates, to continuously improve the dual credit experience and ensure it effectively meets the needs of high-need students.

Legal Authority

This grant is authorized pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) Section 10-221w, as amended by Public Act 26-18.

Definitions

For the purposes of this grant program, the following terms are defined as follows:

High-need Student means a high school student in grades 9 – 12 who meets the state-defined criteria for eligibility for Free or Reduced-Price Meals (FRPM).

Concurrent enrollment course means a postsecondary education course in any academic subject or career-oriented pathway delivered at a high school through which a high school student is simultaneously enrolled in an IHE and is taught by a high school teacher approved by such IHE.

Dual enrollment course means a postsecondary education course in any academic subject or career-oriented pathway delivered by an IHE through which a high school student is simultaneously enrolled in such IHE and is taught by a faculty member of such IHE.

Dual Credit Program means a program where high school students can take college-level courses to earn both high school and college credits.

New Course means a dual or concurrent enrollment course that has never before been offered in a respective district but will be offered for the first time during the semester in which financial support is requested by an IHE.

Funding Structure and Grant Amounts

Funding will be allocated as part of a single grant and will include several components: reimbursement for fee waivers and expanded course offerings, and additional funding specifically for expansion in high-demand industry sectors. The funds awarded through this program may be used to cover eligible expenses directly related to expanding access for high-need students, including tuition fees, technology platforms that support dual enrollment administration, and accreditation activities that strengthen program quality. Unallowable expenses include transportation, administrative costs, indirect costs, non-academic expenses, and fees for ineligible courses.

Tuition for high-need students enrolled in the course is reimbursed at \$300 per student for a 3-credit semester-based course. Reimbursement will be calculated based on the prior year's enrollment data of high-need students enrolled in dual or concurrent enrollment courses reported by the IHE to the CSDE.

Funding Limitations

- Reimbursement is subject to available appropriations.
- If total statewide requests for reimbursement exceed available funding, the Commissioner may prorate reimbursements or apply priority considerations for awards.
- The Commissioner may establish annual reimbursement caps, documentation requirements, or additional conditions to ensure appropriate distribution of funds.

Absolute Priorities

Applicant submissions must:

- include partnerships between IHEs and public school districts and
- show emphasis on expanding access to dual credit programming by high-need students.

Reimbursement Period

Requests for reimbursement shall be made on a semester basis and will commence prior to the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2027.

Review of Applications and Reimbursement Process

The CSDE reserves the right to make reimbursement awards under this program without discussion with the applicants.

All applicants (awarded and not awarded) will be notified regarding the outcome of the review process on November 30, 2026. If a reimbursement request is approved for funding, the Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships (OSPP) will initiate an approval letter in the State's Electronic Grants Management System (eGMS). The level of funding will be set forth in the notification of the letter of approval. The CSDE will retain all submitted reimbursement requests, which will become part of the public domain.

The CSDE will provide reimbursements in accordance with an IHE's approved reimbursement application.

All awards are subject to the availability of funds.

Freedom of Information Act

All the information contained in the application submitted for the Dual Credit Opportunity Grant is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), C.G.S Sections 1-200 et seq. The FOIA declares that except as provided by federal law or state statute, records maintained or kept on file by any public agency (as defined in the statute) are public records and every person has the right to inspect such records and receive a copy of such records.

Application Deadline

The [CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant](#) application is available on the CSDE website and must be received by October 15, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

**Connecticut State Department of Education
Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships**

**CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant
Application Year 2026 – 2027**

**Connecticut State Department of Education
Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships**

**CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant
Application**

Overview

This application is intended for institutions of higher education (IHEs) seeking funding to support high-need students' access to and participation in dual credit programs. The goal is to provide no-cost options for eligible students to participate in such programs while fostering strong partnerships with public school districts.

To enhance the impact and effectiveness of the grant program, IHEs will collaborate with public school district partners to identify and expand course offerings that align with the interests and career aspirations of high-need students.

Funding will be allocated as part of a single grant and will include several components: reimbursement for fee waivers awarded during the 2025-2026 school year, reimbursement for the expansion of course offerings, and additional funding specifically for expansions in high-demand industry sectors for the 2026-2027 school year.

The funds awarded through this program may be used to cover eligible expenses directly related to expanding access for high-need students, including tuition fees, technology platforms that support dual enrollment administration, and accreditation activities that strengthen program quality. Unallowable expenses include transportation, administrative costs, indirect costs, non-academic expenses, and fees for ineligible courses.

The [CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant](#) application is available on the CSDE website and must be received by October 15, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Only one application is required for the 2026-2027 school year. Once the IHE's application is approved, reimbursement requests must be submitted according to the following schedule:

- **Fall Semester: December 14, 2026 - February 26, 2027**
- **Spring Semester: March 1, 2027 - June 11, 2027**

Requests can be made for either one or both semesters.

To qualify for reimbursement, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Institution Partnership:** The IHE must have a documented partnership with one or more public school districts. This partnership should be formalized through a signed partnership agreement outlining the roles and commitments of each party. It is important to note that for any new partnership between an IHE and a school district, the submission of the Attestation of Agreement for New Partnerships (Addendum A) is a mandatory requirement. This document confirms that the IHE and the school district are collaborating to provide dual credit courses, enabling eligible students to meet high school graduation requirements while simultaneously earning college credits.
- **Focus on High-need Students:** Reimbursements funded through this program must specifically target high-need students, defined as a high school student in grades 9 – 12 who meets the state-defined criteria for eligibility for Free or Reduced-Price Meals (FRPM).
- **Offer Credit-Bearing Courses:** Dual and concurrent enrollment courses must provide a minimum of 3-academic credits.

Applicants can access and must complete the online [CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant](#) application.

CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant
The application must be completed on-line
through the CSDE website.
No paper or email applications will be accepted.

I. Institution of Higher Education (IHE) Information

Please provide contact information for key personnel at the institution, including the official name of the IHE, primary contact, and the directors of relevant departments.

II. Program Narrative

Please provide a comprehensive overview of the dual credit initiatives supported by this grant application, highlighting new courses, strategies for targeting high-need student enrollment, and measures to promote accessibility.

A. Dual Credit Program Structure and Pathways

1. Provide a detailed description of the IHE's dual credit program.
2. Describe how your institution structures its dual credit program(s) to ensure that credits earned are transferable and contribute meaningfully toward students' future degrees or credentials. What specific pathways do you offer to guide students in selecting the most beneficial courses?
3. How does your institution collaborate with local high schools to ensure alignment in curriculum offerings, support services, and student pathways? What mechanisms are established for ongoing communication with high school partners?

B. Access and Support for High-need students

1. Describe specific measures to be implemented to ensure increased access to dual credit by high-need students and the removal of financial barriers to participation. Include outreach strategies, student eligibility criteria, and data-sharing processes with partner districts.
2. Outline your institution's specific plans for utilizing grant funding to expand access to dual credit for high-need students. What initiatives have you implemented to ensure students can successfully enroll in and complete dual and concurrent enrollment courses?
3. Considering the uncertainty that high school students often face in deciding their future career paths, what strategies does your institution have in place to advise and support students in choosing courses that align with their educational goals?
4. How does your institution collaborate with local districts to assess the effectiveness and relevance of current course offerings for high school students? What mechanisms are in place to gather student feedback and adjust these offerings based on community or industry needs?
5. In what ways does your institution work with partner districts to explore and implement new course offerings that address the evolving interests and career aspirations of high school students?

6. For Course Expansion Funding Requests only: Describe the new course offering(s) to the district for which your institution is seeking funds. Descriptions should include course titles for each new course being offered at each school district.

C. NACEP Accreditation

Describe the IHE's plan for pursuing NACEP accreditation, and the key strategies, milestones, and timelines.

III. Anticipated Funding Request Summary

Fee-Waiver Reimbursement Request (2025-2026 School Year)

The Fee-Waiver Reimbursement Request for the dual credit courses during the 2025-2026 academic year includes two distinct periods: the Fall Semester 2025 and the Spring Semester 2026. For each semester, it requires the total number of high-need students enrolled in dual credit courses and the total reimbursement requested, calculated at a rate of \$300 per student. Actual reimbursement will be based on the most recent course enrollment data submitted annually by the IHE to the CSDE that are subsequently reported on the [Dual Credit Courses Completed](#) dashboard.

	Fall Semester 2025	Spring Semester 2026
Total number of high-need students enrolled in dual credit courses	#	#
Total fee-waiver reimbursement requested based on \$300 per student	\$	\$

Course Expansion Reimbursement Request (2026-2027 School Year)

IHE can receive a one-time funding reimbursement of \$25,000 for each new course offered to the district, as defined in the general information section of this grant program description. In addition, an extra \$10,000 is allocated specifically for courses in priority industry sectors. For each new course offered in Advanced Manufacturing, Bioscience, Education, Healthcare, and IT/Cybersecurity, the IHE will receive a total of \$35,000 per new course offered in 2026-27. To qualify for funding, each course must have enrollment for a minimum of one semester.

Total number of new and enrolled course offerings to the district for the 2026-2027 school year funded at \$25,000 per course.	#
Total number of new and enrolled course offerings in priority industry sectors is funded at an additional \$10,000 per new course, which includes Advanced Manufacturing, Bioscience, Education, Healthcare, and IT/Cybersecurity.	#
Total course expansion reimbursement requested	\$

IV. Documentation of New Public School Partnership and New Course Articulation

If the applicant is establishing a new partnership, the IHE must submit **Addendum A – Attestation of Agreement for New Partnerships**. If new courses are being offered within an existing partnership, **Addendum B – Approved Articulated New Course List** must be submitted. All required addenda should be submitted through the eGMS platform after the application has been approved.

V. Certification

The provost or authorized signatory must sign the form electronically and agree to the following statement: By signing below, I certify that the information provided in this **CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant application** is accurate, that all fees included in this request were waived or absorbed by the IHE on behalf of high-need students, and that all new courses are enrolled for the 2026-2027 school year.

Provost / Authorized Signatory	
Electronic Signature and Date	

You may contact Karen Amaker, Director of Workforce Development and Career Readiness, at karen.amaker@ct.gov for more information or with questions. Thank you for your commitment to enhancing opportunities for Connecticut’s students.

Addendum A: Attestation of Agreement for New Partnerships

CSDE Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant 2026-2027

(Please make copies as necessary)

This addendum confirms that the IHE must submit the Attestation of Agreement for New Partnerships (Addendum A), which verifies the formal partnership between the IHE and the District to provide dual credit courses. This collaboration allows eligible students to meet high school graduation requirements while earning college credits.

By signing this document, all partners confirm that a signed partnership agreement exists and is complete and accurate.

IHE Provost/Authorized Signatory	
Electronic Signature and Date	

Name of Public School District Superintendent /Authorized Signatory	
Electronic Signature and Date	

Name of Public School District Superintendent /Authorized Signatory	
Electronic Signature and Date	

Name of Public School District Superintendent /Authorized Signatory	
Electronic Signature and Date	

Name of Public School District Superintendent /Authorized Signatory	
Electronic Signature and Date	

Addendum B: Approved Articulated New Course List

CSDE Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships CSDE Dual Credit Opportunity Grant 2026-2027

(Please make copies as necessary)

This addendum formally documents and confirms the new courses that have been jointly approved by the IHE and the District. Below is a list of the new courses offered for the 2026-2027 school year, including the number of credits awarded, priority sector where applicable, and whether each course runs for a semester or the entire year, as indicated by an “X” in the appropriate column.

Course Name	Course Credit	Designate Priority Sector Advanced Manufacturing, Bioscience, Education, Healthcare, or IT/Cybersecurity	Spring	Fall	Spring & Fall

By signing below, both parties confirm that the information provided is accurate.

IHE Provost/Authorized Signatory	
Electronic Signature and Date	

Public School District Superintendent /Authorized Signatory	
Name of Public School District	
Electronic Signature and Date	