



# Governor Ned Lamont

## Fact Sheet: 2025 Legislative Proposal

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### HOUSE BILL 6869

#### *An Act Concerning Dual Credit Programs*

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#### **The Current Situation**

Dual credit courses – classes for which students receive both high school and college credit – save Connecticut students time and money. Offered at no or substantially reduced cost, students taking dual credit courses often graduate high school with a full semester of college under their belts, allowing them to graduate sooner and with less debt.

Evidence shows that students with early college experiences are 38% more likely than their peers to enroll in college immediately after high school and 53% more likely to remain enrolled after one year, demonstrating that dual credit is a powerful tool for engaging students and keeping them connected to learning as young adults.

Although recent ARPA investments from the Lamont administration; the Dual Credit Expansion Grant for School Districts (\$3.8M) and the Dual Credit Grant for Institutions of Higher Education (\$4.9), will go a long way towards addressing teacher certification and staffing challenges associated with offering these programs, access to dual credit opportunities remains unevenly distributed.

#### **Governor Lamont's Solution**

Beginning in FY27, establish a permanent funding stream for dual credit programs in the state with an initial investment of \$7.5M.

Standardize definitions to reduce confusion:

- Dual credit – Any course where a student receives high school and college credit simultaneously.



- Concurrent enrollment – refers to when a high school student is simultaneously enrolled in an institution of higher education (IHE), taking a college course taught by a high school teacher approved by the institution of higher education to offer the course at the high school site. These courses can be in traditional academic areas or in a career-oriented pathway.
- Dual enrollment – refers to when a high school student is simultaneously enrolled in an institution of higher education (IHE), taking a college course taught by faculty member of the institution of higher education. These courses can be in traditional academic areas or in career-oriented pathways.

Require all colleges and universities offering concurrent enrollment programs, to attain accreditation from the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) by July 1, 2028.

Require the State Department of Education (CSDE) to partner with public and private colleges across the state to develop a model agreement for districts to use when forming dual credit partnerships with universities.

Require CSDE to send informational letters to all students in grades 8 through 11, amending the current practice of sending letters to select students in grades 9 and 10.

Ensure that dual or concurrent enrolled course credit earned by a high school student shall satisfy high school graduation requirements, when the courses were approved by their school.

Establish additional data elements in current reporting requirements, enhancing CSDE's ability to make data-driven decisions regarding dual credit programs.