

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Dual Credit Quality Act is amended by
5 changing Sections 5, 10, 15, 16, 17, 20, and 25 and by adding
6 Sections 16.10, 19.5, 22, 45, and 50 as follows:

7 (110 ILCS 27/5)

8 Sec. 5. Definitions. In this Act:

9 "Dual credit course" means a college course taken by a
10 high school student for credit at both the college and high
11 school level.

12 "Postsecondary institution" ~~"Institution"~~ means an
13 "institution of higher learning" as defined in the Higher
14 Education Student Assistance Act.

15 (Source: P.A. 96-194, eff. 1-1-10.)

16 (110 ILCS 27/10)

17 Sec. 10. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to accomplish
18 all of the following:

19 (1) To reduce college costs.

20 (2) To speed time to degree completion.

21 (3) To improve the curriculum for high school students
22 and the alignment of the curriculum with college and

1 workplace expectations.

2 (4) To facilitate the transition between high school
3 and college.

4 (5) To enhance communication and collaboration between
5 high schools and colleges, which leads to the
6 establishment of strong local partnerships that seek to
7 expand opportunities for students.

8 (6) To offer opportunities for improving degree
9 attainment for underserved student populations and provide
10 meaningful educational opportunities that support student
11 success and ensure dual credit is used as a strategic tool
12 for closing opportunity gaps by increasing postsecondary
13 completion.

14 (Source: P.A. 96-194, eff. 1-1-10.)

15 (110 ILCS 27/15)

16 Sec. 15. Student academic standing. Postsecondary
17 institutions ~~Institutions~~ may adopt policies to protect the
18 academic standing of students who are not successful in dual
19 credit courses, including, but not limited to, options for (i)
20 late withdrawal from a course, or (ii) taking the course on a
21 pass-fail basis, or both. All institutional policies relating
22 to the academic standing of students enrolled in dual credit
23 courses or the transfer of credit for dual credit courses must
24 be made publicly available by the postsecondary institution
25 and provided to each student enrolled in dual credit courses

1 offered by that postsecondary institution.

2 (Source: P.A. 100-1049, eff. 1-1-19.)

3 (110 ILCS 27/16)

4 Sec. 16. High school and community college partnership
5 agreements; dual credit.

6 (a) A community college district shall, upon the written
7 request of a school district within the jurisdiction of the
8 community college district, enter into a partnership agreement
9 with the school district to offer dual credit coursework.

10 The school district and community college district must
11 designate a liaison and begin negotiations to reach a
12 partnership agreement no later than 60 calendar days after the
13 initial request.

14 A school district may offer any course identified in the
15 Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core
16 Curriculum package under the Illinois Articulation Initiative
17 Act as a dual credit course on the campus of a high school of
18 the school district and may use a high school instructor who
19 has met the academic credential requirements under this Act to
20 teach the dual credit course.

21 (b) The partnership agreement shall include all of the
22 following:

23 (1) The establishment of the school district's and the
24 community college district's respective roles and
25 responsibilities in providing the program and ensuring the

1 quality and instructional rigor of the program. This must
2 include an assurance that the community college district
3 has appropriate academic control of the curriculum,
4 consistent with any State or federal law and as required
5 or negotiated with the Higher Learning Commission or other
6 applicable accrediting agency.

7 (2) The dual credit courses that the school district
8 will offer its students and whether those courses will be
9 offered on the high school or community college campus or
10 through an online (hybrid or virtual) platform ~~established~~
11 ~~by the Illinois Community College Board.~~

12 (3) The establishment of academic criteria for
13 granting eligibility for high school students to enroll in
14 dual credit coursework. The academic criteria shall be
15 evidence-based and shall include multiple appropriate
16 measures to determine whether a student is prepared for
17 any dual credit coursework in which the student enrolls.

18 (4) The establishment of any limitations that the
19 school district or community college district may put on
20 course offerings due to availability of instructors, the
21 availability of students for specific course offerings, or
22 local board policy.

23 (5) The requirement that the dual credit instructor
24 meet the academic credential requirements to teach a dual
25 credit course, consistent with paragraphs (1), (2), (2.5),
26 and (3) of Section 20 of this Act, but shall not be

1 required to exceed those minimum credentials.

2 (6) The collaborative process and criteria by which
3 the school district shall identify and recommend and the
4 community college district shall review and approve high
5 school instructors of dual credit courses taught on the
6 campus of a high school. This provision shall require that
7 the school district be responsible for hiring and
8 compensating the instructor.

9 (7) The requirement that a community college district
10 take the appropriate steps to ensure that dual credit
11 courses are equivalent to those courses offered at the
12 community college in quality and rigor to qualify for
13 college credit. The dual credit programs shall encompass
14 the following characteristics:

15 (A) Student learning outcomes expected for dual
16 credit courses in General Education Core Curriculum
17 courses and the professional and career and technical
18 disciplines shall be the same as the student learning
19 outcomes expected for the same courses taught on the
20 postsecondary campus.

21 (B) Course content, course delivery, and course
22 rigor shall be evaluated by the community college
23 chief academic officer or his or her designee, in
24 consultation with the school district's superintendent
25 or his or her designee. The evaluation shall be
26 conducted in a manner that is consistent with the

1 community college district's review and evaluation
2 policy and procedures for on-campus adjunct faculty,
3 including visits to the secondary class. This
4 evaluation shall be limited to the course and the
5 ability of the instructor to deliver quality, rigorous
6 college credit coursework. This evaluation shall not
7 impact the instructor's performance evaluation under
8 Article 24A of the School Code. This evaluation shall
9 be completed within the same school year that the
10 course is taught.

11 (C) The academic supports and, if applicable,
12 guidance that will be provided to students
13 participating in the program by the high school and
14 the community college district.

15 (8) Identify all fees and costs to be assessed by the
16 community college district for dual credit courses. This
17 provision shall require that any fees and costs assessed
18 for dual credit courses shall be reasonable and promote
19 student access to those courses, and may take into account
20 regional considerations and differences.

21 (8.5) The collaborative process and criteria by which
22 a school district and a community college district shall
23 work to ensure that individual students with disabilities
24 have access to dual credit courses, provided that those
25 students are able to meet the criteria for entry into a
26 dual credit course. Through this process and criteria, the

1 student shall have access to the supplementary aids and
2 accommodations included in the student's individualized
3 education program under Article 14 of the School Code or
4 Section 504 plan under the federal Rehabilitation Act of
5 1973 while the student is accessing a dual credit course
6 on a high school campus, in accordance with established
7 practices at the high school for providing these services.
8 A student who accesses a dual credit course on a community
9 college campus shall have access to supplementary aids and
10 accommodations provided in the partnership agreement,
11 including access to the community college's disability
12 services. A school district and community college district
13 shall work together to provide seamless communication
14 about the student's eligibility for disability services
15 and dual credit course progress.

16 (9) The community college district shall establish a
17 mechanism for evaluating and documenting on a regular
18 basis the performance of students who complete dual credit
19 courses, consistent with paragraph (9) of Section 20 and
20 Section 30 of this Act, and for sharing that data in a
21 meaningful and timely manner with the school district.
22 This evaluation shall be limited to the course and the
23 coursework. This evaluation shall not impact the
24 instructor's performance evaluation under Article 24A of
25 the School Code.

26 (10) The expectations for maintaining the rigor of

1 dual credit courses that are taught at the high school and
2 including students not deemed ready for college-level
3 coursework according to the standards of the community
4 college.

5 (11) A requirement that the school district and
6 community college annually assess disaggregated data
7 pertaining to dual credit course enrollments, completions,
8 and subsequent postsecondary enrollment and performance to
9 the extent feasible. If applicable, this assessment shall
10 include an analysis of dual credit courses with credit
11 sections for dual credit and for high school credit only
12 pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 16.5 that reviews
13 student characteristics by credit section in relation to
14 gender, race and ethnicity, and low-income status.

15 ~~If, within 180 calendar days of the school district's~~
16 ~~initial request to enter into a partnership agreement with the~~
17 ~~community college district, the school district and the~~
18 ~~community college district do not reach agreement on the~~
19 ~~partnership agreement, then the school district and community~~
20 ~~college district shall jointly implement the provisions of the~~
21 ~~Model Partnership Agreement established under Section 19 of~~
22 ~~this Act for which local agreement could not be reached. A~~
23 ~~community college district may combine its negotiations with~~
24 ~~multiple school districts to establish one multi-district~~
25 ~~partnership agreement or may negotiate individual partnership~~
26 ~~agreements at its discretion.~~

1 (Source: P.A. 102-516, eff. 8-20-21; 102-1077, eff. 1-1-23.)

2 (110 ILCS 27/16.10 new)

3 Sec. 16.10. Partnership agreement negotiations with
4 liaison. Prior to offering dual credit coursework with any
5 postsecondary institution other than a community college, a
6 school district shall first negotiate with the designated
7 liaison of the school district's local community college
8 district to seek a partnership agreement with the community
9 college district as provided in Section 16. After mutually
10 agreeing that a partnership with the community college
11 district is not feasible, the school district may enter into a
12 partnership agreement with an alternative postsecondary
13 institution that addresses each item listed in subsection (b)
14 of Section 16.

15 (110 ILCS 27/17)

16 Sec. 17. Out-of-state dual credit contracts. On or after
17 the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 100th General
18 Assembly, a school district may not enter into a new contract
19 with an out-of-state postsecondary institution to provide a
20 dual credit course without first offering the community
21 college district in the district in which the school district
22 is located the opportunity to provide the course. Prior to
23 entering into a contract with an out-of-state postsecondary
24 institution, the school district shall notify the Illinois

1 Community College Board ~~Board of Higher Education~~ of its
2 intent to enter into an agreement with an out-of-state
3 postsecondary institution. The Illinois Community College
4 Board ~~Board of Higher Education~~ shall have 30 days to provide
5 the school district with a list of in-state postsecondary
6 institutions that can provide the school district an
7 equivalent dual credit opportunity. The school district may
8 not enter into a contract with an out-of-state postsecondary
9 institution on or after the effective date of this amendatory
10 Act of the 104th General Assembly until the school district
11 has demonstrated to the Illinois Community College Board that
12 the school district has taken appropriate steps to consider
13 the listing of in-state postsecondary institutions and
14 provides a rationale as to why the course can be provided only
15 by an out-of-state postsecondary institution; however, this
16 limitation does not apply to a contract that was entered into
17 prior to the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 104th
18 General Assembly. In deciding which dual credit courses to
19 offer, a school district reserves the right to evaluate any
20 dual credit course offered by any postsecondary institution
21 for quality, rigor, and alignment with the school district's
22 students' needs.

23 Agreements to provide dual credit courses between a school
24 district and an out-of-state postsecondary institution in
25 existence on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the
26 100th General Assembly shall remain in effect and shall not be

1 impacted by this Section.

2 (Source: P.A. 100-1049, eff. 1-1-19.)

3 (110 ILCS 27/19.5 new)

4 Sec. 19.5. Dual Credit Committee.

5 (a) Because postsecondary institutions and school
6 districts are equally committed to the success of all students
7 involved in dual credit and to ensure the equity and quality of
8 the student experience that leads to college completion and
9 increased economic mobility, a standing Dual Credit Committee
10 involving collaboration between the Illinois Community College
11 Board and the State Board of Education is created and shall
12 consist of: the State Superintendent of Education or the
13 Superintendent's designee; 10 members appointed by the State
14 Superintendent, including one representative from a statewide
15 professional teachers' organization and one representative
16 from a different statewide professional teachers'
17 organization; the Executive Director of the Illinois Community
18 College Board or the Executive Director's designee; and 10
19 members appointed by the Executive Director of the Illinois
20 Community College Board, including one member who is a
21 community college faculty member who is a representative of a
22 statewide professional teachers' organization and one member
23 who is a community college faculty member who is a
24 representative from a different statewide professional
25 teachers' organization. The Executive Director of the Board of

1 Higher Education or the Executive Director's designee shall
2 serve as an ex-officio member.

3 (b) The Illinois Community College Board shall provide
4 administrative support to the Committee.

5 (c) The Committee shall meet within 60 days after the
6 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 104th General
7 Assembly and subsequently shall meet at least annually to
8 focus on approving accessibility, quality, and alignment of
9 dual credit programs to meet the needs of students. The
10 Committee may consider and develop updates to the Model
11 Partnership Agreement and associated exhibits.

12 (110 ILCS 27/20)

13 Sec. 20. Standards. All postsecondary institutions
14 offering dual credit courses shall meet the following
15 standards:

16 (1) High school instructors teaching credit-bearing
17 college-level courses for dual credit must meet any of the
18 academic credential requirements set forth in this
19 paragraph or paragraph (2), (2.5), or (3) of this Section
20 and need not meet higher certification requirements or
21 those set out in Article 21B of the School Code:

22 (A) Approved instructors of dual credit courses
23 shall meet any of the faculty credential standards
24 allowed by the Higher Learning Commission to determine
25 minimally qualified faculty. At the request of an

1 instructor, an instructor who meets these credential
2 standards shall be provided by the State Board of
3 Education with a Dual Credit Endorsement, to be placed
4 on the professional educator license, as established
5 by the State Board of Education and as authorized
6 under Article 21B of the School Code and promulgated
7 through administrative rule in cooperation with the
8 Illinois Community College Board and the Board of
9 Higher Education. The academic credentials required to
10 be a fully qualified instructor shall include either
11 (i) a master's degree in the discipline to be taught or
12 (ii) a master's degree in any other discipline and a
13 minimum of, but not more than, 18 graduate hours in the
14 discipline to be taught.

15 (B) An instructor who does not meet the faculty
16 credential standards allowed by the Higher Learning
17 Commission to determine minimally qualified faculty
18 may teach dual credit courses if the instructor has a
19 professional development plan, approved by the
20 postsecondary institution and shared with the State
21 Board of Education ~~no later than January 1, 2025,~~ to
22 raise his or her credentials to be in line with the
23 credentials under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph
24 (1). The postsecondary institution shall have 30 days
25 to review the plan and approve an instructor
26 professional development plan that is in line with the

1 credentials set forth in paragraph (2) or (2.5) of
2 this Section. The postsecondary institution shall not
3 unreasonably withhold approval of a professional
4 development plan. These approvals shall be good for as
5 long as satisfactory progress toward the completion of
6 the credential is demonstrated, but in no event shall
7 a professional development plan be in effect for more
8 than 3 years from the date of its approval ~~or after~~
9 ~~January 1, 2028, whichever is sooner~~. A high school
10 instructor whose professional development plan is not
11 approved by the postsecondary institution may appeal
12 to the Illinois Community College Board or the Board
13 of Higher Education, as appropriate.

14 (C) The Illinois Community College Board and Board
15 of Higher Education shall report yearly on their
16 Internet websites the following:

17 (i) the number of teachers presently enrolled
18 in an approved professional development plan under
19 this Section;

20 (ii) the number of instructors who
21 successfully completed an approved professional
22 development plan;

23 (iii) the number of instructors who did not
24 successfully complete an approved professional
25 development plan after 3 years;

26 (iv) a breakdown of the information in

1 subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this
2 subparagraph (C) by subject area; and

3 (v) a summary, by community college district,
4 of professional development plans that are in
5 progress, that were successfully completed, or
6 that have expired.

7 The State Board of Education shall provide the
8 Illinois Community College Board and Board of Higher
9 Education with any information necessary to complete
10 the reporting required under this subparagraph (C).

11 (2) For a high school instructor entering into a
12 professional development plan prior to January 1, 2023,
13 the high school instructor shall qualify for a
14 professional development plan if the instructor:

15 (A) has a master's degree in any discipline and
16 has earned 9 graduate hours in a discipline in which he
17 or she is currently teaching or expects to teach; or

18 (B) has a bachelor's degree with a minimum of 18
19 graduate hours in a discipline that he or she is
20 currently teaching or expects to teach and is enrolled
21 in a discipline-specific master's degree program; and

22 (C) agrees to demonstrate his or her progress
23 toward completion to the supervising postsecondary
24 institution, as outlined in the professional
25 development plan.

26 (2.5) For a high school instructor entering into a

1 professional development plan on or after January 1, 2023,
2 the high school instructor shall qualify for a
3 professional development plan if the instructor:

4 (A) has a master's degree in any discipline, has
5 earned 9 graduate hours in a discipline in which he or
6 she currently teaches or expects to teach, and agrees
7 to demonstrate his or her progress toward completion
8 to the supervising postsecondary institution, as
9 outlined in the professional development plan; or

10 (B) is a fully licensed instructor in career and
11 technical education who is halfway toward meeting the
12 postsecondary institution's requirements for faculty
13 in the discipline to be taught and agrees to
14 demonstrate his or her progress toward completion to
15 the supervising postsecondary institution, as outlined
16 in the professional development plan.

17 (3) An instructor in career and technical education
18 courses must possess the credentials and demonstrated
19 teaching competencies appropriate to the field of
20 instruction.

21 (4) Course content must be equivalent to
22 credit-bearing college-level courses offered at the
23 community college.

24 (5) Learning outcomes must be the same as
25 credit-bearing college-level courses and be appropriately
26 measured.

1 (6) A high school instructor is expected to
2 participate in any orientation developed by the
3 postsecondary institution for dual credit instructors in
4 course curriculum, assessment methods, and administrative
5 requirements.

6 (7) Dual credit instructors must be given the
7 opportunity to participate in all activities available to
8 other adjunct faculty, including professional development,
9 seminars, site visits, and internal communication,
10 provided that such opportunities do not interfere with an
11 instructor's regular teaching duties.

12 (8) Every dual credit course must be reviewed annually
13 by faculty through the appropriate department to ensure
14 consistency with campus courses.

15 (9) Dual credit students must be assessed using
16 methods consistent with students in traditional
17 credit-bearing college courses.

18 (10) Within 15 days after entering into or renewing a
19 partnership agreement, the postsecondary institution shall
20 notify its faculty of the agreement, including access to
21 copies of the agreement if requested.

22 (Source: P.A. 102-558, eff. 8-20-21; 102-1077, eff. 1-1-23;
23 103-154, eff. 6-30-23.)

24 (110 ILCS 27/22 new)

25 Sec. 22. Notification of disapproval or withdrawal;

1 appeal. A community college district with an established
2 partnership agreement with a school district has 30 calendar
3 days from the initial course request to notify the school
4 district of the community college district's disapproval of
5 the course request, instructor, or course documentation or the
6 community college district's withdrawal of course or
7 instructor approval. Thereafter, the school district may
8 appeal the disapproval or withdrawal to the Executive Director
9 of the Illinois Community College Board within 14 calendar
10 days after the notice is received. The Executive Director of
11 the Illinois Community College Board shall render a decision
12 within 45 calendar days after the appeal is filed and provide
13 notice of the Executive Director's decision to the community
14 college district and school district. The decision of the
15 Executive Director may be appealed to the Illinois Community
16 College Board by either the community college district or the
17 school district within 30 calendar days after the decision by
18 submitting a written request for reconsideration of the
19 decision to the Illinois Community College Board. If no appeal
20 is received within 30 calendar days, the Executive Director's
21 decision shall be final and binding. The community college
22 district and school district may make both oral and written
23 presentations to the Illinois Community College Board at the
24 time the decision is reconsidered. The Illinois Community
25 College Board's decision shall be final and binding.

26 (1) If the Illinois Community College Board finds in

1 favor of the school district with respect to the course,
2 instructor, or course documentation but the community
3 college district elects not to offer the course or approve
4 the instructor or course documentation, the school
5 district may pursue an alternative postsecondary
6 institution to provide that course and must notify the
7 community college district within 14 calendar days after
8 the Illinois Community College Board's decision with the
9 school district's intent to do so, along with the reason
10 for seeking an alternative postsecondary institution.

11 (2) If the Illinois Community College Board finds in
12 favor of the community college district's decision to
13 disapprove the school district's course request,
14 instructor, or course documentation or the community
15 college district's withdrawal of course or instructor
16 approval, the school district may not approach an
17 alternative postsecondary institution, including another
18 community college district, with the same course or
19 instructor proposal. The school district may not be
20 prohibited from establishing a new partnership agreement
21 with the community college district if the course request,
22 instructor, or course documentation changes.

23 (110 ILCS 27/25)

24 Sec. 25. Oversight, review, and reporting.

25 (a) The Illinois Community College Board shall be

1 responsible for oversight and review of dual credit programs
2 offered jointly by public community colleges and high schools.
3 The Illinois Community College Board shall implement a review
4 process and criteria for evaluating dual credit program
5 quality based upon the standards enumerated in Section 20 of
6 this Act.

7 (b) The Board of Higher Education shall be responsible for
8 oversight and review of dual credit programs offered jointly
9 by high schools and postsecondary institutions, except for
10 public community colleges as provided in subsection (a) of
11 this Section. The Board of Higher Education shall develop and
12 implement a review process based on the standards enumerated
13 in Section 20 of this Act.

14 (c) Each postsecondary institution shall report annually
15 to the appropriate agency, the Illinois Community College
16 Board or the Board of Higher Education. The reports shall
17 include, but not be limited to, the following data:

18 (1) Number and description of dual credit courses.

19 (2) Faculty teaching dual credit courses and their
20 academic credentials.

21 (3) Enrollments in dual credit courses.

22 (4) Sites of dual credit offerings.

23 (d) Each postsecondary institution shall file an
24 electronic copy of any dual credit agreement executed or
25 amended on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act
26 of the 104th General Assembly within 30 days after execution

1 or amendment with the Board of Higher Education or Illinois
2 Community College Board, as appropriate. The Illinois
3 Community College Board shall publish all dual credit
4 agreements between school districts and out-of-state or
5 private postsecondary institutions on its website.

6 (Source: P.A. 96-194, eff. 1-1-10.)

7 (110 ILCS 27/45 new)

8 Sec. 45. State and federal law and administrative rule
9 requirements. All postsecondary institutions and school
10 districts shall ensure that dual credit courses, instructors,
11 and course documentation meet requirements established by
12 State and federal law and administrative rules adopted by
13 State agencies and are aligned with the Higher Learning
14 Commission or other applicable accreditation agencies.

15 (110 ILCS 27/50 new)

16 Sec. 50. Study. Five years after the effective date of
17 this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly, the
18 Illinois Community College Board shall conduct a study
19 concerning the impact of the changes made by this amendatory
20 Act of the 104th General Assembly, including, but not limited
21 to, the impact on postsecondary enrollment, persistence,
22 completion, quality, and access to dual credit in Illinois.
23 The study shall include student demographics. The study shall
24 be submitted to the General Assembly and the Governor by

1 October 1, 2030 and published on the Illinois Community
2 College Board's website.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law.