

## Dual Credit Legislation Passes both Houses

*Illinois students are the winners*



**ED-RED**



**SCOPE**

We are extremely pleased to report that our joint dual credit bill SB 2838 passed both chambers. It had previously passed the Senate. As you will note, this is not the original bill number. Over the past week, the dual credit components were added to a bill that was already much further along in the legislative process. The final step is getting Governor Rauner's signature on the bill.

Our original Senate sponsor, Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, was key in making this legislation happen. She put our amendment on her initial dual credit bill, SB 3190. There were several months of intense negotiations with multiple stakeholders. In the end, we were able to remove all opposition. When it became evident that the bill was running out of time, she found a House sponsor, Representative Natalie Manley, who moved our language on SB2838. Our original language, along with changes made throughout the process are now in SB2838 Amendment #2.

The entire process of writing this bill, advocating for it, and navigating it through the legislative process was a great collaborative effort of our organizations. We all worked extremely well together and each provided vital parts of expertise that ultimately got this bill passed.

It is not an overstatement to say that this is landmark education legislation. It is no short order to pass legislation that greatly impacts both secondary and higher education. In the final analysis, the winners of this legislation are the kids of Illinois who will now have more access to dual credit opportunities.

**DUAL CREDIT**  
**SUPPORT - SB 2838, House Amendment #2**  
**Representative Manley**



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WHY THIS BILL IS IMPORTANT

- Dual credit courses provide high school students the opportunity to begin accruing college credit while still in high school which can save students and their families a considerable amount of money. Aside from permitting students the opportunity to attain college credit, the courses expose high school students to college level coursework.
- Expands dual credit course opportunities to students by making Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) dual credit courses available to any Illinois high school.
- Facilitates a student's transition between high school and college and increases the number of students attending college. Dual credit is especially beneficial for traditionally challenged populations of students (i.e. first generation) who may not see themselves as college material. Experiencing success in college level coursework in high school, where supports are available, better prepares students for the transition to college.
- Dual Credit opportunities for students vary widely across Illinois. Access to quality dual credit programs depends on where students live. This bill creates more equity in dual credit offerings across Illinois.
- Many community colleges, and departments within colleges, set higher certification standards than is required by their accrediting agency, Higher Learning Commission (HLC). This bars many high school teachers from teaching dual credit courses, and thus limits dual credit opportunities for high school students. This bill allows high school teachers:
  - with either of the two HLC certification standards to teach dual credit courses.
  - working towards the HLC certifications to teach dual credit courses under a professional development plan, so long as they can reach full certification within 3 years. While the provision to utilize professional development plans will sunset in 4 years, this time frame gives districts the time to build dual credit programming and work with their teachers on certification requirements. Consistency and continuity of programming for high schools is essential.
- Illinois students are increasingly leaving Illinois for college. We all want to keep our kids in Illinois.

PROVISIONS OF SB 2838, HA #2

- A school district shall be permitted to offer any course identified in the Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core Curriculum package under the Illinois Articulation Initiative Act as a dual credit course on the campus of a high school in the district and permit the school district to use a high school instructor who has met the academic credential requirements under this Act to teach the dual credit course.

- All dual credit coursework credit is transferable to all public universities in this State on the same basis as completed by a public community college student who has previously earned a high school diploma in the manner set forth under the IAI.
- For any school district that wants to offer dual credit courses through their local community college, requires community colleges and school districts to develop a partnership agreement. The Act provides the specifics of what is to be addressed in the Agreement.
- Should the two entities not be able to reach consent on the agreement, they shall implement provisions of the Model Agreement created by a Dual Credit Committee.
  - The Model Agreement must be created by June 30, 2019
  - The Committee is composed of 10 people; 5 appointed by the State Superintendent, 5 appointed by the Executive Director of the ICCB.
  - The Model Agreement will address all aspects of the partnership agreement.
- Instructor Certification Requirements
  - High school instructors must meet either of the minimum instructor standards as determined by HLC.
  - Creates an ISBE dual credit endorsement for those who meet the HLC standard.
  - Instructors who do not meet the HLC standard may obtain a provisional certificate if they have an approved professional development plan. Professional development plans shall be approved by ICCB and shared with ISBE. In order to qualify a teacher must:
    - Have a master's degree in any subject and at least 9 hours in the subject matter being taught; or
    - Have 18 hours in the discipline expected to teach and is discipline specific master's degree program; and
    - Demonstrate their progress toward completion.
  - Professional development plans may be in effect for no more than 3 years from the date of approval.
  - The ability to approve professional development plans will sunset 4 years after the effective date of this act.
  - The Illinois Community College Board shall annually report the number of approved professional development plans.
- After the effective date of the bill, districts may not enter into agreements with out of state entities without first offering the local community college the opportunity to provide the course. The Board of Higher Education also must have the opportunity (30 days) to provide the school district with other in-state options.
- Subject to appropriation, the Illinois Community College Board shall award funds to community colleges to expand their service and lower costs for high school students desiring to take college-level classes prior to receiving their high school diploma to accelerate their college coursework.