

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1347

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make college affordable and accessible by expanding access to dual or concurrent enrollment programs and early college high school programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 8, 2025

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make college affordable and accessible by expanding access to dual or concurrent enrollment programs and early college high school programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Making Education Af-
5 fordable and Accessible Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. DUAL OR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS**
 2 **AND EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL.**

3 Part B of title VII of the Higher Education Act of
 4 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1138 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating section 745 as section 746;

6 (2) in section 746, as redesignated by para-
 7 graph (1), by striking “fiscal year 2009” and insert-
 8 ing “fiscal year 2025”; and

9 (3) by inserting after section 744 the following:

10 **“SEC. 745. DUAL OR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PRO-**
 11 **GRAMS AND EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL.**

12 “(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to ex-
 13 pand access for high school students to the opportunities
 14 offered in dual or concurrent enrollment programs and
 15 early college high school programs established through
 16 partnerships between local educational agencies and insti-
 17 tutions of higher education that enable such students to
 18 earn postsecondary credits while enrolled in a public high
 19 school.

20 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) ESEA DEFINITIONS.—The terms ‘dual or
 22 concurrent enrollment program’, ‘early college high
 23 school’, ‘high school’, and ‘parent’ have the mean-
 24 ings given to those terms in section 8101 of the Ele-
 25 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

1 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
2 ble institution’ means an institution of higher edu-
3 cation that carries out or plans to carry out a dual
4 or concurrent enrollment program or an early college
5 high school program.

6 “(3) FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT.—
7 The term ‘first-generation college student’ has the
8 meaning given the term in section 402A(h).

9 “(4) RURAL SCHOOL.—The term ‘rural school’
10 means a school designated with a locale code of 41,
11 42, or 43, as determined by the Secretary.

12 “(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award
14 grants to eligible institutions to carry out dual or
15 concurrent enrollment programs or early college high
16 school programs.

17 “(2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this
18 subsection shall be for a period of not more than 5
19 years.

20 “(3) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew a
21 grant awarded to an eligible institution under this
22 subsection if the Secretary determines that the eligi-
23 ble institution demonstrated sufficient positive out-
24 comes under the program carried out under the

1 grant, based on the reports submitted under sub-
2 section (h).

3 “(d) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution that de-
4 sires to receive a grant under this section shall submit to
5 the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,
6 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
7 quire. Such application shall include a description of—

8 “(1) the partnership between the eligible insti-
9 tution and each local educational agency involved in
10 carrying out the dual or concurrent enrollment pro-
11 gram or early college high school program; and

12 “(2) how the eligible institution will expand stu-
13 dent access to a dual or concurrent enrollment pro-
14 gram or an early college high school program, espe-
15 cially for students described in subsection (e).

16 “(e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
17 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible institu-
18 tions that will use grant funds for dual or concurrent en-
19 rollment programs or early college high school programs
20 that serve students from low-income families, students
21 who attend rural schools, or first-generation college stu-
22 dents.

23 “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that re-
24 ceives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds
25 to carry out a dual or concurrent enrollment program or

1 an early college high school program for students enrolled
2 in a public high school, which may include activities such
3 as—

4 “(1) providing educators, principals, counselors,
5 and other school leaders with professional develop-
6 ment activities, trainings, and certifications that en-
7 hance or enable the provision of postsecondary
8 coursework through a dual or concurrent enrollment
9 program or an early college high school program;

10 “(2) designing the sequence of courses for a
11 dual or concurrent enrollment program or an early
12 college high school program—

13 “(A) to match the academic standards and
14 rigor of a corresponding postsecondary course;
15 and

16 “(B) in collaboration with educators from
17 the local educational agency and faculty from
18 the eligible institution;

19 “(3) establishing a course articulation process
20 for defining and approving courses for high school
21 and postsecondary credit or credentials for both 2-
22 year and 4-year institutions of higher education in
23 the State;

24 “(4) establishing outreach programs to provide
25 elementary school and secondary school students, es-

pecially those students in middle grades, and their parents, educators, school counselors, and principals with general information about a dual or concurrent enrollment program or an early college high school program, including the eligibility requirements and academic preparation needed for the program;

“(5) helping students meet eligibility criteria for postsecondary courses and ensuring that students understand how credits earned will transfer to institutions of higher education in the State; or

“(6) coordinating high school transition with academic calendars.

“(g) FLEXIBILITY OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an eligible institution that receives a grant under this section may use grant funds for any of the costs associated with carrying out a dual or concurrent enrollment program or an early college high school program, including the costs of—

“(A) tuition and fees, books, and required instructional materials for the program so that students will not be required to pay tuition or fees for postsecondary courses; and

“(B) transportation to and from the program.

1 “(2) LIMITATION.—An eligible institution may
 2 use not more than 20 percent of grant funds re-
 3 ceived under this section for transportation costs de-
 4 scribed in paragraph (1)(B).

5 “(h) EVALUATION AND REPORTS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible institution re-
 7 ceiving a grant under this section shall—

8 “(A) conduct an independent evaluation re-
 9 garding the effectiveness and rigor of the activi-
 10 ties as carried out by such eligible institution
 11 under this section, which shall include—

12 “(i) data on course-specific student
 13 enrollment; and

14 “(ii) the number of resulting postsec-
 15 ondary credits earned by students through
 16 dual or concurrent enrollment programs or
 17 early college high school programs sup-
 18 ported under the grant that are trans-
 19 ferred to institutions of higher education;
 20 and

21 “(B) prepare and submit to the Secretary
 22 a report containing the results of the evaluation
 23 described in subparagraph (A).

1 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may es-
2 tablish additional requirements for the program eval-
3 uations required under paragraph (1).

4 “(3) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the
5 date of enactment of the Making Education Afford-
6 able and Accessible Act of 2025, and every 2 years
7 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
8 summarized report that describes the findings of the
9 evaluations conducted under paragraph (1)(A).”.

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