

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2620

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

AUGUST 5, 2021

Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KAINE, 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 2021”.

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 2022”; 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’, and ‘high school’ have the same meaning
 24 given to those terms in section 8101 of the Elemen-
 25 tary 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 “(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may
 7 award grants to eligible institutions to carry out dual or
 8 concurrent enrollment programs or early college high
 9 school programs.

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

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

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

23 “(e) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
 24 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible institu-
 25 tions that will use grant funds for dual or concurrent en-

1 rollment programs or early college high school programs
 2 that serve students from low-income families, students
 3 from rural communities, or first-generation college stu-
 4 dents (as defined in section 402A(h)).

5 “(f) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution that re-
 6 ceives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds
 7 to carry out a dual or concurrent enrollment program or
 8 an early college high school program for students enrolled
 9 in a public high school, which may include activities such
 10 as—

11 “(1) providing educators, principals, and other
 12 school leaders with professional development activi-
 13 ties that enhance or enable the provision of postsec-
 14 ondary coursework through a dual or concurrent en-
 15 rollment program or an early college high school
 16 program;

17 “(2) designing the curriculum and sequence of
 18 courses for a dual or concurrent enrollment program
 19 or an early college high school program in collabora-
 20 tion with educators from the local educational agen-
 21 cy and faculty from the eligible institution;

22 “(3) establishing a course articulation process
 23 for defining and approving courses for high school
 24 and postsecondary credit or credentials for both 2-

1 year and 4-year institutions of higher education in
2 the State;

3 “(4) establishing outreach programs to provide
4 elementary school and secondary school students, es-
5 pecially those students in middle grades, and their
6 parents, educators, school counselors, and principals
7 information about and academic preparation for a
8 dual or concurrent enrollment program or an early
9 college high school program;

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

14 “(6) coordinating high school transition and
15 postsecondary support services and academic cal-
16 endars.

17 “(g) FLEXIBILITY OF FUNDS.—

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

24 “(A) tuition and fees, books, and required
25 instructional materials for the program so that

1 students will not be required to pay tuition or
 2 fees for postsecondary courses; and

3 “(B) transportation to and from the pro-
 4 gram.

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

9 “(h) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

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

12 “(A) conduct an independent evaluation of
 13 the effectiveness of the activities carried out by
 14 such eligible institution under this section; and

15 “(B) prepare and submit to the Secretary
 16 a report containing the results of the evaluation
 17 described in subparagraph (A).

18 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may es-
 19 tablish requirements for program evaluations.”.

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