

Statutory Changes Relating to Dual credit Course Funding

1995 HB1336 added TEC130.008, including prohibition against double funding at (d):

(d) For instances when state funding is provided to both a school district and a public junior college for a student enrolled in courses offered by a junior college under Subsection (a), the commissioner of education and the commissioner of higher education shall jointly develop a mechanism to identify and eliminate duplication of state funding.

Agency rules disallowed attendance for dual credit courses, resulting in only higher education funding.

2003 HB415 repealed TEC130.008(d):

SECTION 1. Section 130.008(d), Education Code, is repealed.

SECTION 2. Section 42.005, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

(g) If a student may receive course credit toward the student's high school academic requirements and toward the student's higher education academic requirements for a single course, the time during which the student attends the course may not be counted as part of the minimum number of instructional hours required for a student to be considered a full-time student in average daily

attendance for purposes of this section. This subsection expires September 1, 2004.

Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, dual credit courses were eligible for funding both as higher ed courses and as attendance in the Foundation School Program.

TEC29.009 (HB1, 2006):

Sec. 28.009. COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM. (a) Each school district shall implement a program under which students may earn the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours of college credit in high school. On request, a public institution of higher education in this state shall assist a school district in developing and implementing the program.

Agency advises districts that students may not be required to pay tuition or purchase textbooks for courses that meet the requirement to provide access to 12 hours of college credit.

HB3646 (2009):

SECTION 91. (a) The commissioner of education, in collaboration with the commissioner of higher education, shall conduct a study of dual credit programs and courses. The study must focus on the costs to the state, school district, community college, and student.

(b) The commissioner of education, in collaboration with the commissioner of higher education, shall, based on the results of the study, make recommendations to the 82nd Legislature on how to provide all students with the opportunity to earn 12 semester credit hours of college credit before graduating from high school, how to ensure efficient use of state resources regarding dual credit programs and courses, and how to promote the ability of students to access quality dual credit courses.

(c) The study required by this section may be consolidated with any other appropriate study regarding dual credit programs and courses.

SECTION 15. Section 28.009, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

(a-2) A school district is not required to pay a student's tuition or other associated costs for taking a course under this section. This subsection expires September 1, 2011.

Two policy issues:

1. How to fund dual credit courses in the Foundation School Program and Higher education?
2. Under what circumstances may a student be required to pay tuition and purchase the textbook?