

**Senate Bill 311**  
**Am. Sub. S.B. 311**  
**126th General Assembly**

**Dual enrollment programs**

(R.C. 3313.6013, 3314.03(A)(11)(d), and 3333.34)

The act requires each school district (including each joint vocational school district), community school, and chartered nonpublic high school to offer students in grades 9 to 12 the opportunity to participate in a dual enrollment program. As defined, a dual enrollment program enables a student either (1) to earn credit toward a degree from an institution of higher education while enrolled in high school or (2) to complete coursework while in high school that may qualify for college credit if the student attains a specified score on an examination covering the coursework. Dual enrollment programs include the existing Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program (PSEO), Advanced Placement courses (see "**College credit for AP courses**" below), and similar programs established through agreements between individual districts or schools and post-secondary institutions.

Under continuing law, all school districts (except joint vocational school districts) and community schools must participate in PSEO, which allows high school students to enroll in nonsectarian college courses on a full- or part-time basis and receive high school and college credit for those courses.<sup>1</sup>[10] City, local, and exempted village districts and community schools meet the act's requirement to offer a dual enrollment program through their mandatory participation in PSEO. Nevertheless, these districts and community schools may offer additional dual enrollment programs, and joint vocational school districts must offer another dual enrollment program, to students "in good standing." The act directs the Partnership for Continued Learning to develop a definition of "in good standing" for schools to use in determining who qualifies for dual enrollment programs other than PSEO.

Chartered nonpublic high schools also are eligible for PSEO and may satisfy the act's requirement by electing to participate in that program. Chartered nonpublic high schools that do not participate in PSEO must offer at least one other dual enrollment program instead, but only to students in good standing, as defined by the Partnership for Continued Learning.

All school districts, community schools, and chartered nonpublic high schools must provide students in grades 8 to 11 with information about the dual enrollment programs they offer. In addition, the Board of Regents, in collaboration with the State Board of Education, must publish an annual report describing those programs. The Board of Regents must submit the report to the Governor, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the House, the President

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and Minority Leader of the Senate, the chairpersons and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Education committees, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the President of the State Board of Education. In addition, the Board of Regents must post the report on its web site.

### **College credit for AP courses**

(R.C. 3333.163)

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program offers students the opportunity to earn college credit while enrolled in high school through participation in high-level academic courses in various subject areas. Generally, to be eligible for college credit, a student must take an exam covering the course content. Each college or university establishes its own policy regarding how well students must score on AP exams to receive course credit at that institution.

To bring consistency to these policies at Ohio's public institutions of higher education, the act directs the Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council of the Board of Regents to recommend, by April 15, 2008, standards for awarding course credit to students based on their scores on AP exams.<sup>2[11]</sup> The Council must recommend a score on each AP exam that it considers to be a passing score for which college credit is appropriate. Upon adoption of the recommended standards by the Board of Regents, all state universities, community colleges, state community colleges, university branches, and technical colleges must comply with the standards in awarding course credit for scores on AP exams.

### **Recommendations for improving dual enrollment programs**

(R.C. 3301.42(B))

Continuing law requires the Partnership for Continued Learning to make recommendations for increasing opportunities for students to participate in dual enrollment programs. The act further requires those recommendations to include expanded opportunities for students to earn college credit on their high school campuses. Also, under the act, the Partnership must recommend legislative changes that would improve the operation of PSEO and other dual enrollment programs. These legislative recommendations, which must be developed in consultation with the Board of Regents and the State Board of Education, are due by May 31, 2007.

### **Internet and distance learning classes by state universities**

(R.C. 3345.062)

If the Partnership for Continued Learning does not make legislative recommendations for improving dual enrollment programs by the May 31, 2007, deadline (see above), the act requires

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each of the 13 state universities to offer at least two college level courses via the Internet or interactive distance learning that students may take to earn both high school and college credit. Each state university must offer one science and one math course. The university may charge a fee for each course up to one-tenth of the amount per credit hour normally charged by the university for an undergraduate course at its main campus. Finally, each course may include a single presentation, no more than two minutes long, describing the university's other programs and courses.