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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, dual enrollment programs offered by local community colleges and universities are only available to eligible high school students who are enrolled in partnering K-12 local education agencies.

This bill would require dual enrollment courses offered by local community colleges and universities and approved for dual credit by the State Department of Education to be available to eligible high school students through all local education agencies.

This bill would require each local education agency to award high school credit for the passing of approved dual enrollment courses regardless of whether the local education agency incorporates dual enrollment courses into its standard curriculum.

This bill would also further provide for the requirements for students to enroll in dual enrollment courses.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT



29 Relating to education; to extend the availability of
30 approved dual enrollment courses offered by local community
31 colleges and universities to high school students enrolled in
32 all local education agencies; to require each local education
33 agency to recognize and award high school credit for the
34 passing of approved dual enrollment courses; and to further
35 provide for the requirements for students to enroll in dual
36 enrollment courses.

37 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

38 Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the
39 following terms have the following meanings:

40 (1) LOCAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE. A two-year community or
41 technical college under the purview of the Alabama Community
42 College System whose service area includes the area where the
43 local high school or local education agency is located, as
44 determined by the Alabama Community College System.

45 (2) LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY. A county or city school
46 system operating public K-12 schools.

47 (3) UNIVERSITY. A four-year public institution of
48 higher education.

49 (b) (1) A local education agency, upon the request of a
50 parent or legal guardian, shall permit an enrolled high school
51 student to enroll in any dual enrollment course that is
52 offered by a local community college or university and
53 approved for dual credit by the State Department of Education.

54 (2) The granting of permission does not obligate a
55 local education agency to incorporate any dual enrollment
56 course into its standard curriculum. The local education



57 agency shall recognize and award high school credit to a
58 student who passes approved dual enrollment courses.

59 (c) To be eligible for enrollment in a dual enrollment
60 course, a student shall meet with a counselor, career coach,
61 or other appropriate employee designated by the local
62 education agency. The counselor, career coach, or employee
63 shall evaluate the dual enrollment courses selected by the
64 student and shall determine the appropriateness of those
65 courses based on the preferred college and career interests of
66 the student. The student shall also consult with dual
67 enrollment personnel employed by the applicable local
68 community college or university regarding his or her course
69 selections to ensure the relevancy of those courses.

70 (d) Both the local education agency and the local
71 community college or university shall agree, in writing, on
72 the course selections of a student. Upon agreement, the local
73 education agency shall request, and the local community
74 college or university shall register the student for the
75 selected and approved dual enrollment courses.

76 (e) A local education agency is not financially
77 responsible for any costs associated with the participation of
78 a student in dual enrollment courses, unless otherwise
79 required by state or local law, policy, or agreement between
80 the local education agency and the local community college or
81 university.

82 (f) The State Department of Education, with input from
83 and in collaboration with the Alabama Community College System
84 and universities, shall prepare and distribute to local



85 education agencies guidelines for the implementation of this
86 section.

87 Section 2. This act shall become effective on August 1,
88 2025.