



**House Education Policy Reported Substitute for  
SB196**

A BILL

TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to public high school education; to create the Move on When Ready Act; to establish a program allowing eligible 11th and 12th grade students to take all courses at an eligible public institution of higher education and receive high school credit for the coursework; to create the Move on When Ready Fund and authorize the Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) to administer the fund; to authorize payment from the fund to a public institution of higher education for courses taken pursuant to the program; to provide for the calculation of the payment; to prohibit a public institution of higher education from charging a student for postsecondary coursework taken pursuant to the program; to authorize the State Board of Education, in consultation with the ACCS Board of Trustees and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education's Council of Presidents, to adopt rules; and to create criminal penalties for any person who enables a public institution of higher education to wrongfully obtain payments under this program.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) This act shall be known and may be cited



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as the Move on When Ready Act.

(b) As used in this section, the following words have the following meanings:

(1) ACCS. The Alabama Community College System.

(2) DEPARTMENT. The State Department of Education.

(3) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION or INSTITUTION. Each of the following:

a. Any two-year public institution of higher education in the state, including postsecondary technical colleges, trade schools, community colleges, and junior colleges.

b. Any four-year public institution of higher education, provided that institution chooses to participate in the program.

(4) ELIGIBLE STUDENT. A student entering 11th or 12th grade who spent the prior school year in attendance at a public high school in this state who meets the eligibility criteria adopted pursuant to this section.

(5) FUND. The Move on When Ready Fund created by this section.

(6) PROGRAM. The arrangement authorized by this section whereby an eligible student takes all of his or her courses, as approved by subsection (f), at an eligible institution and receives secondary credit from his or her high school with the goal of completing graduation and high school diploma requirements.

(7) SECONDARY CREDIT. High school credit for courses taken at an eligible institution under the program.

(8) STATE BOARD. The State Board of Education.



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(c)(1) Any eligible student may apply to an eligible institution to take courses at that institution which are approved for secondary academic credit pursuant to subsection (f). If accepted at an eligible institution, an eligible student may take any approved course at that institution, whether or not the course is taught during the regular public school day, and receive secondary credit. While taking courses at an eligible institution, a student shall be considered a student of that institution and may not take any courses at his or her high school or participate in any school activities, including extra-curricular activities. An eligible institution that accepts an eligible student under the program may not receive any state funds for that student unless the institution complies with the requirements of this section.

(2) An eligible student who enrolls in the program shall not be counted as a high school dropout on the state report card if they fail to complete the requirements for a high school diploma.

(3) Nothing in this section shall affect or otherwise replace any existing law or funding from the Legislature relating to dual enrollment practices as of October 1, 2024.

(d) Except as otherwise provided, the state board shall consult with the Board of Trustees of ACCS and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education's Council of Presidents in developing and adopting rules regarding the program, including, but not limited to:

(1) Eligibility criteria for program participation, including applicable state and federal testing requirements



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for eligible students participating in the program; and

(2) The development of appropriate forms and counseling guidelines for the program.

(e)(1) No later than April 1 of each year, each local board of education shall provide general information about the program, including the appropriate forms, to all middle school, 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students in the district.

The state board shall make the appropriate forms and guidelines available to all local boards of education and eligible institutions.

(2) Each local board of education shall also provide counseling services in accordance with the counseling guidelines to its students and their parents or guardians before a student may enroll in the program. Prior to participating in the program, a student and his or her parent or guardian shall sign the form provided by the local board of education, or by an eligible institution, stating that they have received the counseling specified in this subsection and that they understand the responsibilities that shall be assumed in participating in the program.

(f)(1)a. Each local board of education shall grant academic credit to an eligible student enrolled in a course at an eligible institution if that course has been approved pursuant to paragraph b. and if the student successfully completes that course.

b. The state board and representatives of each participating eligible institution shall collaborate to approve courses for inclusion in the program. Any course that



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is substantially comparable to a high school course approved by the state board, other than a remedial or summer school course, shall be approved. Co-requisite courses may be approved for inclusion the program, provided that a student may only receive one secondary credit for the completion of both the co-requisite course and the companion college-level course.

c. The secondary credit granted shall be for the comparable high school course.

(2) Secondary school credits granted for eligible institution courses shall be counted toward graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the local board of education. Evidence of successful completion of each course and secondary credits granted shall be included in the eligible student's high school transcript. Secondary credit for postsecondary courses shall be awarded in the same manner as credits for dual enrollment courses.

(3) Students who successfully complete a course that is not approved under subdivision (1) may receive secondary credit for purposes of satisfying an elective credit.

(4) The state board shall establish rules to require local boards of education to award a high school diploma to any eligible student who is enrolled at an eligible institution under the program, provided that the credit earned at the institution satisfies course requirements needed for the eligible student to complete high school graduation.

(g) (1) The Move on When Ready Fund is created within the State Treasury. The Executive Director of the Alabama



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Commission on Higher Education shall administer the fund. The executive director shall use the fund to pay eligible institutions the lesser of the following amounts for each participating eligible student enrolled therein, less a records fee of two hundred dollars (\$200) for the administration costs of the local board of education:

a. The actual cost of tuition, materials, and fees directly related to the courses taken by the eligible student at the institution; or

b. The amount that the participating eligible student would have earned if he or she had been in equivalent instructional programs through the local board of education, calculated pursuant to subdivision (2).

(2) The total allotment of funds to the local board of education in which a participating student is enrolled at an eligible institution shall be calculated as otherwise provided in Title 16, Code of Alabama 1975, provided that during the student's second year in the program, the calculation shall include an ensuing reduction equivalent to the amount paid from the fund to the eligible institution pursuant to this subsection.

(3) The records fee contained in subdivision (1) may be increased at the sole discretion of the state board by up to four percent annually.

(4) Any monies appropriated shall be budgeted and allotted pursuant to the Budget Management Act in accordance with Article 4, commencing with Section 41-4-80 of Chapter 4 of Title 41, Code of Alabama 1975, and only in the amounts



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provided by the Legislature in the general appropriations act or other appropriations act.

(h) A student enrolled in an eligible institution for secondary credit shall not be eligible for any other state student financial aid for courses taken under the program.

(i) An eligible institution may not charge an eligible student for coursework taken pursuant to this program and shall accept the payment made pursuant to subsection (g) as full payment for the eligible student.

(j) Any person who knowingly makes or furnishes any false statement or misrepresentation, or who accepts a statement or misrepresentation knowing it to be false, for the purpose of enabling an eligible institution to obtain wrongfully any payment under this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(k) No later than July 1 of each year, the department, in consultation with the Alabama Community College System and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education's Council of Presidents, shall prepare and publish a report about the impact of the program during the previous academic year. The report shall include, but not be limited to, information about the number of students in each school district who participate in the program and the number of students who successfully complete the program, graduate from high school, and earn a postsecondary credential.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on July 1, 2026.