

# SENATE, No. 2226

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 16, 2014

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Turner, Allen and Doherty**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires all school districts and public colleges to enter into dual enrollment agreements to provide college-level instruction to high school students through courses offered on college or high school campus.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/19/2014)**

1 AN ACT concerning dual enrollment programs, supplementing  
2 chapter 61C of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes, and  
3 repealing P.L.1986, c.193 and P.L.1986, c.194.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. a. Within one year of the effective date of this act, a school  
9 district with a high school shall enter into a dual enrollment  
10 agreement with one or more public institutions of higher education.

11 b. Within one year of the effective date of this act, a public  
12 institution of higher education shall enter into a dual enrollment  
13 agreement with one or more school districts with a high school.

14 c. A dual enrollment agreement between a public institution of  
15 higher education and a school district shall delineate the dual  
16 enrollment program pursuant to which instruction is provided to  
17 high school students through courses offered by the institution of  
18 higher education on its campus or on the campus of the public high  
19 school for college credit or credit toward a career certificate.

20 d. The dual enrollment agreement shall include:

21 (1) a description of the courses available to students eligible to  
22 participate in the dual enrollment program;

23 (2) a description of the student eligibility requirements for initial  
24 and continuing participation in the dual enrollment program, which  
25 shall include a provision that ensures that an eligible student is not  
26 excluded from participation because of an inability to pay;

27 (3) a description of the process by which a student and his  
28 parent or guardian exercise the option to participate in the dual  
29 enrollment program;

30 (4) a provision ensuring that any dual enrollment course taught  
31 on the high school campus is equivalent in rigor to courses taught  
32 on the campus of the institution of higher education;

33 (5) a description of the process by which a student and his  
34 parent or guardian are informed about opportunities for student  
35 participation in the dual enrollment program; and

36 (6) such other items as deemed appropriate by the  
37 Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.

38  
39 2. A public institution of higher education shall accept the  
40 course credit of a student who successfully completes a course  
41 under the dual enrollment program.

42  
43 3. The Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of Higher  
44 Education shall submit annually a joint report to the Governor and  
45 to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164  
46 (C.52:14-19.1), on dual enrollment programs in the State. The  
47 report shall include, but need not be limited to: information related  
48 to the utilization of dual enrollment programs throughout the State,

1 including information specific to the income-level and location  
2 within the State of participating students; the effect dual enrollment  
3 programs have on reducing the average time-to-degree completion  
4 and increasing the likelihood of college graduation for participating  
5 students; an analysis of the rigor of the courses taken pursuant to  
6 the dual enrollment program; and recommendations for any  
7 suggested changes to the dual enrollment program.

8  
9 4. The State Board of Education and the Secretary of Higher  
10 Education each shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative  
11 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and  
12 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

13  
14 5. The following sections are repealed:  
15 Sections 1 and 3 of P.L.1986, c.194 (C.18A:61C-1 and  
16 C.18A:61C-3); and  
17 Sections 1 through 7 of P.L.1986, c.193 (C.18A:61C-4 through  
18 C.18A:61C-9).

19  
20 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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23 STATEMENT

24  
25 This bill provides that within one year of its effective date, all  
26 school districts with high schools must enter into a dual enrollment  
27 agreement with at least one public institution of higher education.  
28 Similarly, within the one-year time frame, all public institutions of  
29 higher education must enter into dual enrollment agreements with  
30 one or more school districts with a high school. A dual enrollment  
31 agreement will delineate information concerning a dual enrollment  
32 program pursuant to which instruction is provided to public high  
33 school students through courses offered by the institution of higher  
34 education, either on its campus or on the high school campus. The  
35 credit may be used toward a career certificate or an associate or  
36 baccalaureate degree.

37 The bill requires the dual enrollment agreement to include:

- 38 • a description of the courses available to students eligible to  
39 participate in the dual enrollment program;
- 40 • a description of the student eligibility requirements for  
41 initial and continuing participation in the program, including a  
42 provision that ensures that an eligible student is not excluded  
43 from participation because of an inability to pay;
- 44 • a description of the process by which students and their  
45 parents or guardians exercise the option to participate in the  
46 program;

- 1       • a provision ensuring that any dual enrollment courses taught  
2 on the high school campus are equivalent in rigor to courses  
3 taught on the campus of the institution of higher education;
- 4       • a description of the process by which students and their  
5 parents or guardians are informed about opportunities for student  
6 participation in the program; and
- 7       • any other items deemed appropriate by the Commissioner of  
8 Education and the Secretary of Higher Education.
- 9       The bill specifies that a public institution of higher education is  
10 required to accept the course credit of a student who successfully  
11 completes a course under the dual enrollment program.
- 12       Under the provisions of the bill a joint report will be submitted  
13 annually by the Commissioner of Education and the Secretary of  
14 Higher Education to the Governor and to the Legislature on dual  
15 enrollment programs in the State. The report will include:  
16 information related to the utilization of dual enrollment programs  
17 throughout the State, including information specific to the income-  
18 level and location within the State of participating students; the  
19 effect dual enrollment programs have on reducing the average time-  
20 to-degree completion and increasing the likelihood of college  
21 graduation for participating students; an analysis of the rigor of the  
22 courses taken pursuant to the dual enrollment program; and  
23 recommendations for and suggested changes to the dual enrollment  
24 program.
- 25       The bill repeals two dual enrollment programs which did not  
26 require the participation of institutions of higher education. This  
27 bill seeks to increase the availability of dual enrollment courses for  
28 public high school students by requiring the participation of all  
29 school districts and all public institutions of higher education, both  
30 four-year and two-year, in dual enrollment programs.