

★ Dual Enrollment Update! ★

Proposed legislation to change Dual Enrollment (House Bill 444)! Parents need to be aware of proposed changes.

Proposed Dual Enrollment Legislation

The Georgia Senate passed a bill on Tuesday, January 28th that would reduce how many dual enrollment courses high school students can take in a dual enrollment program that is paid for by state funding.

House Bill 444 would restrict students to a total of 30 college credit hours, and would mainly limit courses to 11th and 12th grade students, with some exceptions. Currently, students can take up to 15 credit hours a semester. Students who want to take more than 30 credit hours would have to pay for additional classes. The legislation has a grandfather clause for current dual enrollment students, but there are credit hour restrictions for some students.

The bill passed out of the Senate by a 34-18 vote. The bill moved on the House of Representatives in March and passed by a 103-67 vote.

What does this mean for GCPS parents and students?

HB 444 passed in the House. Governor Kemp is expected to sign the bill into law in June, parents need to be aware of the following:

- Eligible high school students will be **limited to a total of 30 semester hours or 12 semester hours** depending upon the student's current semester hours;
- **Any 11th or 12th grader at an eligible high school is eligible for dual enrollment** and may take dual enrolled courses at an eligible institution and receive state funds;
- **9th and 10th grade students are no longer eligible** for the program, however, there are three exceptions for 10th grade student enrollment;
- Additionally, all students currently enrolled in the High School Postsecondary Graduation Option (formerly known as the SB 2 program) can continue under the status quo.
- Lastly, if a student withdraws from a dual credit course, they will not be able to retake that course using state funds. Additionally, if a student withdraws from two dual credit courses they will be ineligible for further Dual Enrollment funds. GSFC maintains the ability to evaluate the circumstances of withdrawal and to make determinations of eligibility in special circumstances.

As a result, parents of rising 10th graders that plan to dual enroll need to be aware that their students will be required to meet one of these requirements in order to be eligible to take dual enrolled courses and receive state funding:

- 10th grade students who meet Zell Miller Scholarship ACT or SAT score eligibility criteria before the start of a Dual Enrollment term;
- Students enrolled in an eligible CTAE course within the Technical College System of Georgia; or
- 9th grade students that enrolled in a Dual Enrollment course in the USG track for which state payment was made prior to or on June 30, 2020 will not be subject to Zell Miller criteria and will be able to participate in the program in 10th grade.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your school's Dual Enrollment Coordinator or the Accelerated Programs & Gifted Education Office at 678-301-7020.