

House File 2019 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2019

BY WILLS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment of an advanced
2 opportunities program for certain students enrolled in
3 public schools to take overload and dual credit courses,
4 postsecondary credit-bearing and career and technical
5 education certificate examinations, and career and technical
6 education workforce training courses, and the award of a
7 scholarship for early graduation.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 261E.14 **Advanced opportunities**
2 **program.**

3 1. *Definitions.* For purposes of this section, unless the
4 context otherwise requires:

5 a. *"Credit"* means middle or secondary school credit.

6 b. *"Dual credit"* means the secondary and public
7 postsecondary credit a student receives for the completion of a
8 postsecondary-level education course in accordance with this
9 section.

10 c. *"Full credit load"* means at least twelve school credits
11 per school year for grades seven through twelve.

12 d. *"Overload course"* means a course taken that is in excess
13 of a full credit load and outside of the regular school day,
14 including summer courses and online courses.

15 e. *"Parent"* means a parent, guardian, or legal custodian of
16 a minor.

17 f. *"Public postsecondary educational institution"* means
18 a community college established under chapter 260C or an
19 institution of higher learning under the control of the state
20 board of regents.

21 2. *Program established.* Subject to an appropriation of
22 funds by the general assembly for this purpose, an advanced
23 opportunities program is established within the department
24 of education to provide public school students in Iowa with
25 funding to support implementation of individualized career and
26 academic plans developed pursuant to section 279.61.

27 3. *Funds eligible for student use.*

28 a. Each student enrolled in and attending a public school
29 in Iowa shall be eligible for four thousand one hundred
30 twenty-five dollars to use toward overload courses, dual
31 credits, postsecondary credit-bearing examinations, career and
32 technical education certificate examinations, and career and
33 technical education workforce training courses.

34 b. A student may access funds authorized to the student in
35 accordance with paragraph "a" in grades seven through twelve for

1 any of the following:

2 (1) Overload courses, the distribution of which shall not
3 exceed two hundred twenty-five dollars per overload course.
4 A student must take and successfully complete a full credit
5 load within a given school year to be eligible for funding of
6 an overload course. To be eligible for funding, an overload
7 course must be taken for secondary school credit and the course
8 must at minimum meet all of the following requirements:

9 (a) Be offered by a school district.

10 (b) Be taught by a teacher appropriately licensed under
11 chapter 272 to teach in the subject area and the grade level.

12 (2) Eligible dual credits, the distribution of which shall
13 not exceed seventy-five dollars per one dual credit hour. The
14 dual credit course must be offered by a public postsecondary
15 educational institution. To qualify as an eligible dual credit
16 course, the course must be a credit-bearing one-hundred-level
17 course or higher.

18 (3) Eligible postsecondary credit-bearing or career
19 technical certificate examinations. The department shall
20 maintain a list of eligible exams and costs. Eligible
21 examinations include but are not limited to any of the
22 following:

23 (a) Advanced placement.

24 (b) International baccalaureate.

25 (c) College-level examination program.

26 (d) Career and technical education examinations that lead
27 to an industry-recognized certificate, license, or degree.

28 (4) Career and technical education workforce training
29 courses, such as federally registered apprenticeships, the
30 distribution of which shall not exceed five hundred dollars
31 per course or one thousand dollars per year. The department
32 shall maintain a list of eligible training courses and costs.
33 Eligible training courses must at a minimum meet all of the
34 following requirements:

35 (a) Be provided by a community college established under

1 chapter 260C.

2 (b) Lead to an industry-recognized certificate, license,
3 or degree.

4 (c) Be required training for an occupation deemed, pursuant
5 to section 84A.1B, subsection 14, a high-demand job in the
6 community college region.

7 (d) Be otherwise unavailable at the student's secondary
8 school.

9 (e) Allow secondary school-aged students to participate.

10 4. *Counseling requirement.* A student who has earned
11 fifteen postsecondary credits prior to secondary school
12 graduation using the advanced opportunities program and who
13 wishes to earn additional postsecondary credits must first
14 identify postsecondary goals under the individualized career
15 and academic plan developed pursuant to section 279.61. A
16 school counselor shall advise any student who wishes to take
17 dual credit courses that the student should ascertain whether
18 the particular eligible public postsecondary educational
19 institution that the student desires to attend will accept the
20 transfer of coursework credits under this section.

21 5. *Use of funds.* Moneys allocated for student use under
22 this program may be used to pay an amount not to exceed the
23 price to the student of such courses and examinations pursuant
24 to the limitations stated in this section. Such moneys shall
25 not supplant existing program funds. Payments made under
26 this section shall be made from the moneys appropriated to
27 the department by the general assembly for purposes of this
28 program.

29 6. *Course challenge — funding.* The board of directors of
30 each school district may set forth criteria by which a student
31 may challenge a course for credit, including by taking an
32 exam. If a student successfully meets the criteria set forth
33 by the school board, the student shall be counted as having
34 completed all required coursework for that course. The school
35 district shall be funded for such students based upon either

1 actual hours of attendance or the course that the student has
2 successfully passed, whichever is more advantageous to the
3 school district, up to the weighting assigned to one pupil.

4 7. *Early graduation incentives.* Any student enrolled in
5 a school district who successfully completes the educational
6 program for grades one through twelve, established pursuant to
7 section 256.11, and graduates at least one year early shall
8 be eligible for an advanced opportunities scholarship under
9 this subsection. The scholarship may be used for tuition
10 and fees at any public postsecondary educational institution
11 located in this state. The amount of the scholarship shall
12 equal thirty-five percent of the regular program state cost per
13 pupil for each year of grades one through twelve curriculum
14 avoided by the student's early graduation. Subject to an
15 appropriation by the general assembly for such purpose, each
16 school district shall receive an amount equal to each such
17 awarded scholarship for each student that graduates early from
18 that school district. Students must apply for the scholarship
19 within two years of graduating from a public secondary school.
20 For school funding purposes, actual enrollment shall be counted
21 as normal for students participating in dual credit courses
22 pursuant to this section.

23 8. *Reimbursements — data — student performance.*

24 a. The department shall reimburse a school district or
25 public postsecondary educational institution, as applicable,
26 for such costs, up to the stated limits, within one hundred
27 twenty-five days of receiving the necessary data upon which
28 reimbursements shall be paid. The submission method and
29 timelines of reimbursement data shall be determined by the
30 department. Payments will be made only for activity occurring
31 and reported within each fiscal year.

32 b. If a student fails to earn credit or successfully
33 complete a course for which the department has paid a
34 reimbursement, the student must pay for and successfully earn
35 credit or complete a comparable course before the department

1 shall pay any further reimbursements for the student. If a
2 student performs inadequately on an examination for which the
3 department has paid a reimbursement, the school district shall
4 determine whether the student must pay for and successfully
5 pass such examination to continue receiving state funding under
6 the program.

7 9. *Ineligible courses.* Repeated and remedial courses
8 or examinations are not eligible for advanced opportunities
9 program funding.

10 10. *Participation timelines.* Each school district shall
11 establish timelines and requirements for participation in the
12 program, including implementing procedures for the appropriate
13 transcription of credits, reporting of program participation,
14 and financial transaction requirements. Each school district
15 shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that any student who
16 considers participating in the program also considers the
17 challenges and time necessary to succeed in the program, and
18 shall make reasonable efforts to include guidance on how
19 the student's participation in the program contributes to
20 prospective college and career pathways. Such efforts by the
21 district shall be performed prior to a student participating
22 in the program and throughout the student's involvement in the
23 program.

24 11. *Policies and procedures.* The department and the board
25 of directors of each school district shall establish policies
26 and procedures for participating in the program. Each school
27 district shall ensure that students have an opportunity to
28 participate in the program and meet district-established
29 timelines and requirements for financial transactions,
30 transcribing credits, and department reporting requirements.
31 Participation in the program requires parent, if the student
32 is a minor, and student agreement to program requirements and
33 completion of any forms prescribed by the department.

34 12. *School district assistance — parent.* School district
35 personnel shall assist parents in the process of enrolling

1 students in such courses. The parent of a participating
2 student may enroll such parent's child in any eligible course,
3 with or without the permission of the school district in
4 which the student is enrolled. Each participating student's
5 secondary school transcript at the school district of
6 enrollment shall include the credits earned and grades received
7 by the student for any overload or dual credit courses taken
8 pursuant to this section. For an eligible course to be
9 transcribed as meeting the requirements of a core subject as
10 identified in rule, the course must meet the approved content
11 standards for the applicable subject and grade level.

12 13. *District and institution participation.* Participating
13 school districts shall collaborate with public postsecondary
14 educational institutions to assist students who seek
15 to participate in dual credit courses or graduate from
16 secondary school early by enrolling in postsecondary courses.
17 Participating school districts and public postsecondary
18 educational institutions shall report to the state board any
19 difficulties or obstacles the school districts and institutions
20 experience in providing assistance to participating students.

21 14. *Rules.* The state board may promulgate rules under
22 chapter 17A to implement the provisions of this section.

23 15. *Report.* Not later than January 15 annually, the
24 department shall submit a report to the general assembly
25 detailing, at a minimum, the number of students benefiting
26 from assistance with the cost of overload courses, dual credit
27 courses, examinations, and workforce training courses, and the
28 number of credits awarded and amounts paid pursuant to this
29 section during the previous school year.

30 EXPLANATION

31 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
32 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

33 This bill provides for the establishment within the
34 department of education, subject to an appropriation of funds
35 by the general assembly, of an advanced opportunities program

1 and scholarship, to provide public school students with funding
2 to support implementation of individualized career and academic
3 plans and to provide scholarships as incentives for students to
4 graduate from secondary school at least one year early. The
5 scholarships may be used at public postsecondary educational
6 institutions located in this state.

7 Under the bill, each student enrolled and attending a
8 public school in Iowa, beginning in grade seven, is eligible
9 for \$4,125 to use toward overload courses, dual credits,
10 postsecondary credit-bearing examinations, career and technical
11 education certificate examinations, and career and technical
12 education workforce training courses.

13 "Overload course" means a course taken that is in excess
14 of a full credit load and outside of the regular school day,
15 including summer courses and online courses. Moneys for
16 overload courses shall not exceed \$225 per overload course.
17 Such courses must be offered by a school district and taught by
18 an appropriately licensed teacher.

19 "Dual credit" means the secondary and public postsecondary
20 credit a student receives for the completion of a
21 postsecondary-level education course under the program. Moneys
22 for dual credits shall not exceed \$75 per one dual credit
23 hour and the course must be offered by a public postsecondary
24 educational institution.

25 The department shall maintain a list of eligible
26 postsecondary credit-bearing or career technical certificate
27 examinations and costs for such examinations. Eligible
28 examinations include but are not limited to advanced placement,
29 international baccalaureate, college-level examination program,
30 and career and technical education examinations that lead to an
31 industry-recognized certificate, license, or degree.

32 Career and technical education workforce training courses,
33 such as federally registered apprenticeships for which moneys
34 may be used, shall not exceed \$500 per course or \$1,000 per
35 year. The department of education must maintain a list of

1 eligible training courses and costs. Such courses must be
2 provided by a community college; lead to an industry-recognized
3 certificate, license, or degree; be required training for
4 an occupation deemed a high-demand job in the community
5 college region; be otherwise unavailable at the student's
6 secondary school; and allow secondary school-aged students to
7 participate.

8 A student who has earned 15 postsecondary credits prior
9 to secondary school graduation using the program must first
10 identify postsecondary goals under the student's individualized
11 career and academic plan before the student may continue
12 to earn additional credits. The bill describes how school
13 counselors must advise such students.

14 Moneys allocated for student use shall not supplant
15 existing program funds. Payments shall be made from the moneys
16 appropriated to the department of education for purposes of the
17 program.

18 School boards may set forth criteria by which a student
19 may challenge a course and be counted as having completed all
20 required coursework for that course, including by examination.
21 The school district shall be funded for such students based
22 upon either actual hours of attendance or the course that the
23 student has successfully passed, whichever is more advantageous
24 to the school district, up to the weighting assigned to one
25 pupil.

26 Any student enrolled in a school district who successfully
27 completes the educational program for grades 1-12 and graduates
28 at least one year early shall be eligible for an advanced
29 opportunities scholarship, which may be used for tuition and
30 fees at any public postsecondary educational institution.
31 The scholarship amount shall equal 35 percent of the regular
32 program state cost pupil for each year of grades 1-12
33 curriculum avoided by the student's early graduation. Subject
34 to an appropriation by the general assembly for such purpose,
35 each school district shall receive an amount equal to each such

1 awarded scholarship for each student that graduates early from
2 that school district. Students must apply for the scholarship
3 within two years of graduating from a public secondary school.
4 For public funding purposes, actual enrollment shall be counted
5 as normal for students participating in dual credit courses
6 pursuant to the program.

7 The department shall reimburse a school district or public
8 postsecondary educational institution within 125 days of
9 receiving the necessary data. The submission method and
10 timelines of reimbursement data shall be determined by the
11 department.

12 If a student fails to earn credit or successfully complete a
13 course for which the department has paid a reimbursement, the
14 student must pay for and successfully earn credit or complete a
15 comparable course before any further reimbursements are made
16 to the student. If a student performs inadequately on an
17 examination for which the department has paid a reimbursement,
18 the school district shall determine whether the student must
19 pay for and successfully pass such examination to continue
20 receiving state funding under the program.

21 Repeated and remedial courses or examinations are not
22 eligible for advanced opportunities program funding.

23 Each school district must establish timelines and
24 requirements for participation in the program, must make timely
25 and reasonable efforts to provide guidance to students who are
26 considering participating in the program, and must ensure that
27 students have an opportunity to participate in the program
28 and meet all program-related timelines and requirements.
29 Participation in the program requires parent, if the student is
30 a minor, and student agreement to program requirements.

31 School district personnel must assist parents in the process
32 of enrolling students in such courses. A parent may enroll
33 the parent's child in any eligible course, with or without the
34 permission of the school district. Student transcripts must
35 include the credits earned and grades received for overload and

1 dual credit courses taken under the program.

2 Participating school districts shall collaborate with public
3 postsecondary educational institutions to assist students who
4 seek to participate in the program and must report to the
5 state board of education any difficulties or obstacles the
6 school districts and institutions experience in providing such
7 assistance.

8 The state board of education may promulgate rules to
9 implement the program and scholarship.

10 No later than January 15 annually, the department of
11 education shall submit a report to the general assembly
12 detailing the number of students benefiting from assistance
13 with the cost of overload courses, dual credit courses,
14 examinations, and workforce training courses, and the number
15 of credits awarded and amounts paid during the previous school
16 year.