

**House File 51 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 51

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  
7 scholarships for early graduation or obtaining certain  
8 amounts of postsecondary credit.  
9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 261E.21 **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 and to  
27 provide scholarships in accordance with section 261E.22.

28 3. *Funds eligible for student use.*

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

35 b. A student may access funds authorized to the student in

1 accordance with paragraph "a" in grades seven through twelve for  
2 any of the following:

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

10 (a) Be offered by a school district.

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

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

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

24 (a) Advanced placement.

25 (b) International baccalaureate.

26 (c) College-level examination program.

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

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

1 (a) Be provided by a community college established under  
2 chapter 260C.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 district shall be funded for such students based upon either  
2 actual hours of attendance or the course that the student has  
3 successfully passed, whichever is more advantageous to the  
4 school district, up to the weighting assigned to one pupil.

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

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

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

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

1 credit or complete a comparable course before the department shall pay any further reimbursements for the student. If a student performs inadequately on an examination for which the department has paid a reimbursement, the school district shall determine whether the student must pay for and successfully pass such examination to continue receiving state funding under the program.

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

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

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

35 12. *School district assistance — parent.* School district

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

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

22 14. *Rules.* The state board may promulgate rules under  
23 chapter 17A to implement the provisions of this section and  
24 section 261E.22.

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

32 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 261E.22 **Postsecondary credit**  
33 **scholarship.**

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

1     *a. "Merit-based scholarship"* means a scholarship in which  
2 academic achievement at the secondary school level is a minimum  
3 eligibility requirement and awards are made based on the  
4 academic achievement of the student.

5     *b. "Public postsecondary educational institution"* means the  
6 same as defined in section 261E.21.

7     2. *Scholarship established.* Subject to an appropriation  
8 of funds by the general assembly for purposes of section  
9 261E.21 and this section, a postsecondary credit scholarship is  
10 established within the department, and shall be administered  
11 by the department in cooperation with the college student  
12 aid commission created pursuant to section 261.1, to provide  
13 scholarships for students who have earned certain amounts of  
14 postsecondary semester credits upon graduation.

15     3. *Scholarship amounts — limitations.*

16     *a.* Subject to the provisions of paragraph "b" and  
17 subsections 4 and 5, beginning with the spring 2022 graduating  
18 class, the following shall apply:

19         (1) Any student who has earned at least ten postsecondary  
20 semester credits upon graduation from a public secondary school  
21 in this state shall be entitled to a scholarship in the amount  
22 of two thousand dollars that shall be used for tuition and fees  
23 at any public postsecondary educational institution.

24         (2) Any student who has earned at least twenty postsecondary  
25 semester credits upon graduation from a public secondary school  
26 in this state shall be entitled to a scholarship in the amount  
27 of four thousand dollars that shall be used for tuition and  
28 fees at any public postsecondary educational institution.

29         (3) Any student who has earned an associate degree from a  
30 public postsecondary educational institution upon graduation  
31 from a public secondary school in this state shall be entitled  
32 to a scholarship in the amount of eight thousand dollars that  
33 shall be used for tuition and fees at any public postsecondary  
34 educational institution.

35     *b.* For paragraph "a", subparagraphs (1) and (2), the award



1 amount shall be limited by the number of credits accepted by  
2 the public postsecondary educational institution where the  
3 scholarship is to be applied. For paragraph "a", subparagraphs  
4 (1) through (3), the awards shall be annual awards and  
5 one-quarter of the scholarship amount shall be distributed  
6 in each semester of full-time attendance until the total  
7 scholarship is expended or expires.

8 c. A student is entitled to only one of the scholarships set  
9 forth in paragraph "a".

10 4. *Eligibility requirements.* To be eligible for a full  
11 scholarship set forth in subsection 3, a student must meet the  
12 following conditions:

13 a. The student must be awarded a postsecondary merit-based  
14 scholarship in an amount at least equal to the postsecondary  
15 credit scholarship amount awarded in the same school year,  
16 provided that the match funds for each scholarship must come  
17 from a business or industry, or an entity representing a  
18 business or industry, and shall not be from appropriated or  
19 nonappropriated funds of the public postsecondary educational  
20 institution or from a foundation affiliated with the public  
21 postsecondary educational institution, unless the funds  
22 were donated to the institution specifically as a match for  
23 postsecondary credit scholarships.

24 b. The student must have graduated from a public secondary  
25 school in this state.

26 c. Except for the first semester in which the postsecondary  
27 credit scholarship amount is distributed, in order to receive  
28 the scholarship distribution in a given semester, the student  
29 must have successfully passed at least twelve credits during  
30 the immediately preceding semester in which the scholarship was  
31 distributed.

32 5. *Awards based on grade point average.* Postsecondary  
33 credit scholarships shall be awarded based on grade point  
34 average rank, subject to an appropriation of funds pursuant to  
35 subsection 2.

1 6. *Expiration of scholarship.* A student shall use  
2 the postsecondary credit scholarship within four years of  
3 graduating from secondary school, at which time the scholarship  
4 expires and can no longer be used.

5 7. *Discretionary use of scholarship moneys.* If a student  
6 is awarded a scholarship in addition to a postsecondary credit  
7 scholarship that pays for one hundred percent of the cost of  
8 tuition and fees, part or all of the postsecondary credit  
9 scholarship moneys may be used for room and board at the  
10 discretion of the institution where the student will attend.

11 8. *Distribution of program funds.* This section  
12 shall be funded from the advanced opportunities program  
13 established pursuant to section 261E.21. The department shall  
14 distribute to eligible students, school districts, and public  
15 postsecondary educational institutions the necessary amount  
16 for implementation of the program, including the scholarships  
17 provided for under this section, not to exceed one million  
18 dollars in fiscal year 2022, and not to exceed two million  
19 dollars in fiscal year 2023 and every fiscal year thereafter.

20 9. *Report.* No later than January 15 annually, the  
21 department shall submit a report to the general assembly  
22 detailing the number of postsecondary credit scholarships  
23 awarded during the previous school year. The report shall  
24 include the total amount of moneys distributed for the  
25 scholarships.

26 EXPLANATION

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

29 This bill provides for the establishment within the  
30 department of education, subject to an appropriation of funds  
31 by the general assembly, of an advanced opportunities program  
32 and scholarship, and a postsecondary credit scholarship,  
33 to provide public school students with funding to support  
34 implementation of individualized career and academic plans  
35 and to provide scholarships as incentives for students to

1 graduate from secondary school at least one year early or  
2 who have earned certain amounts of postsecondary credits  
3 upon graduation. The scholarships may be used at public  
4 postsecondary educational institutions.

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

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

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

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

30 Career and technical education workforce training courses,  
31 such as federally registered apprenticeships for which moneys  
32 may be used, shall not exceed \$500 per course or \$1,000 per  
33 year. The department of education must maintain a list of  
34 eligible training courses and costs. Such courses must be  
35 provided by a community college; lead to an industry-recognized

1 certificate, license, or degree; be required training for  
2 an occupation deemed a high-demand job in the community  
3 college region; be otherwise unavailable at the student's  
4 secondary school; and allow secondary school-aged students to  
5 participate.

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

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

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

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

1 within two years of graduating from a public secondary school.  
2 For public funding purposes, actual enrollment shall be counted  
3 as normal for students participating in dual credit courses  
4 pursuant to the program.

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

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

19 Repeated and remedial courses or examinations are not  
20 eligible for advanced opportunities program funding.

21 Each school district must establish timelines and  
22 requirements for participation in the program, must make timely  
23 and reasonable efforts to provide guidance to students who are  
24 considering participating in the program, and must ensure that  
25 students have an opportunity to participate in the program  
26 and meet all program-related timelines and requirements.

27 Participation in the program requires parent, if the student is  
28 a minor, and student agreement to program requirements.

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

35 Participating school districts shall collaborate with public

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

6 The state board of education may promulgate rules to  
7 implement the program and scholarship.

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

15 The bill establishes the postsecondary credit scholarship  
16 within the department, which must administer the scholarships  
17 in cooperation with the college student aid commission.  
18 Students, beginning with the spring 2022 graduating class,  
19 who earn postsecondary semester credits are entitled to  
20 a postsecondary credit scholarship in amounts from \$2,000  
21 to \$8,000 based on the number of postsecondary semester  
22 credits the student has earned upon graduation from public  
23 postsecondary school. However, the student also must be  
24 awarded a postsecondary merit-based scholarship awarded by a  
25 business or industry, or an entity representing business or  
26 industry, in an amount at least equal to the postsecondary  
27 credit scholarship amount awarded in the same school year.

28 For students who have not earned an associate degree,  
29 the award amount shall be limited by the number of credits  
30 accepted by the public postsecondary educational institution  
31 where the scholarship is to be applied. For all eligible  
32 students, the awards shall be annual awards and one-quarter of  
33 the scholarship amount must be distributed in each semester  
34 of full-time attendance until the total scholarship is  
35 expended or expires. A student is entitled to only one of the

1 postsecondary credit scholarships set forth.

2 A student must have successfully passed at least 12 credits  
3 during the immediately preceding semester to continue to  
4 receive scholarship moneys.

5 Scholarships are awarded based on grade point average rank  
6 subject to an appropriation by the general assembly. A student  
7 shall use the scholarship within four years of graduating from  
8 secondary school.

9 A student awarded a scholarship in addition to the  
10 postsecondary credit scholarship that pays 100 percent of the  
11 tuition and fees may use the postsecondary credit scholarship  
12 moneys to pay for room and board at the discretion of the  
13 institution.

14 Moneys distributed by the department to eligible students,  
15 school districts, and public postsecondary educational  
16 institutions for implementation of the program, including the  
17 scholarships provided for under the bill, shall not exceed \$1  
18 million in fiscal year 2022, and shall not exceed \$2 million in  
19 fiscal year 2023, and every fiscal year thereafter.

20 No later than January 15 annually, the department of  
21 education shall submit a report to the general assembly  
22 detailing the number of postsecondary credit scholarships  
23 awarded during the previous school year. The report shall  
24 include the total amount of moneys distributed for the  
25 scholarships.