

By: Senator(s) Boyd

To: Universities and
Colleges

SENATE BILL NO. 2521

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 37-109-11, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972,
2 TO EXTEND THE DATE OF REPEAL ON THE MISSISSIPPI DUAL
3 ENROLLMENT/DUAL CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ACT OF 2023; TO BRING
4 FORWARD SECTIONS 37-109-1, 37-109-3, 37-109-5, 37-109-7, AND
5 37-109-9, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, FOR PURPOSES OF POSSIBLE
6 AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 37-109-11, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 37-109-11. * * * This chapter shall stand repealed on July
11 1, * * * 2028.

12 **SECTION 2.** Section 37-109-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
13 brought forward as follows:

14 37-109-1. Sections 37-109-1 through 37-109-9, Mississippi
15 Code of 1972, shall be known and may be cited as the "Mississippi
16 Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program Act of 2023."

17 **SECTION 3.** Section 37-109-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
18 brought forward as follows:

19 37-109-3. There is hereby created the Mississippi Dual
20 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program, to be administered by

21 the Mississippi Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board
22 established under Section 37-106-9. The board shall set the dates
23 and deadlines for applying for funding for dual enrollment/dual
24 credit courses of eligible Mississippi high school students under
25 the provisions of Sections 37-109-1 through 37-109-9 and award
26 scholarships to participating institutions for those who meet the
27 eligibility requirements provided herein.

28 **SECTION 4.** Section 37-109-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
29 brought forward as follows:

30 37-109-5. As used in this chapter, the following terms shall
31 have the meaning ascribed in this section, unless the context
32 clearly requires otherwise:

33 (a) "Institution" means any postsecondary educational
34 institution that is a public state-supported institution of higher
35 learning, a public state-supported community or junior college, or
36 any not-for-profit private institution of higher learning in the
37 state. The term does not include proprietary colleges or
38 universities.

39 (b) "Student" means a high school student in a public
40 school or charter school program in Mississippi.

41 (c) "Board" means the Mississippi Postsecondary
42 Education Financial Assistance Board established in Section
43 37-106-9, which is authorized and empowered to administer the
44 provisions of Title 37, Chapter 106, Mississippi Code of 1972.



45 (d) "Director" means the individual designated by the
46 Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning to
47 administer the provisions of the various financial assistance
48 programs by promulgating the necessary rules and regulations for
49 their effective administration.

50 (e) "Dual enrolled student" means a student who is
51 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of
52 higher learning while enrolled in high school, as defined in
53 Section 37-15-37(1)(a).

54 (f) "Dual credit student" means a student who is
55 enrolled in a community or junior college or state institution of
56 higher learning while enrolled in high school and who is receiving
57 high school and college credit for postsecondary coursework, as
58 defined in Section 37-15-38(1)(b).

59 (g) "Manual" means the procedures manual for the State
60 of Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs of which
61 the contents of the manual are evaluated and approved by the
62 academic officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community
63 Colleges and the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.

64 (h) "Program" means the Mississippi Dual
65 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program.

66 **SECTION 5.** Section 37-109-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
67 brought forward as follows:

68 37-109-7. (1) (a) For institutions to be eligible for
69 participation in the program, the institution shall adhere to the



70 guidelines prescribed in the procedures manual for the State of
71 Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs, hereinafter
72 the "manual," and the requirements established by the Mississippi
73 Postsecondary Education Financial Assistance Board for
74 participating institutions set forth in this subsection.

75 (b) Eligibility for funding shall be incorporated into
76 the manual, which shall outline the specific criteria for initial
77 and continued eligibility for participation for institutions, dual
78 enrollment students and dual credit students, respectively. The
79 academic officers of both the Mississippi Association of Community
80 Colleges and the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
81 Learning shall evaluate and approve the contents of the manual
82 each year.

83 (c) The board shall administer the Dual Enrollment/Dual
84 Credit Scholarship Program as outlined in the manual. Funds for
85 the program shall be distributed by the board to the providing
86 institution of higher education on behalf of each eligible student
87 after the enrollment verification period. Funds shall not be
88 distributed by the board directly to the student.

89 (d) Participation in the Mississippi Dual
90 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program is optional for all
91 institutions defined in Section 37-109-5(a). However, in order to
92 qualify for funding, all guidelines in the manual must be followed
93 by each institution.

94 (e) All participating institutions shall be reimbursed
95 at the rate of forty percent (40%) of the average community
96 college credit hour tuition for the current academic year.

97 (f) Participating institutions may elect to exclude
98 specific centers, branch campuses, collegiate academies and
99 middle * * * colleges within their governance or purview from
100 participating in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit
101 Scholarship Program.

102 (2) For students to be eligible for participation in the
103 program, the scholarship applicant shall satisfy the student
104 eligibility requirements prescribed in Procedures Manual for the
105 State of Mississippi Dual Enrollment and Accelerated Programs and
106 the requirements established for student eligibility set forth in
107 this subsection:

108 (a) Students in Grades 11 and 12 who are residents of
109 the State of Mississippi shall be eligible to participate in the
110 program, provided they meet minimum eligibility criteria in the
111 manual. Resident status for the purpose of receiving assistance
112 under this chapter shall be determined in the same manner as
113 resident status for tuition purposes in Sections 37-103-1 through
114 37-103-29, with the exception of Section 37-103-17;

115 (b) Each eligible student shall be qualified for
116 funding under this chapter for up to six (6) dual enrollment/dual
117 credit semester credit hours prior to high school graduation;



118 (c) All students who meet the eligibility requirements
119 as outlined in the manual, regardless of participation method,
120 whether online, at a participating institution's campus, at a high
121 school campus, academic or career and technical education (CTE),
122 shall meet the requirements for funding allocation to the
123 participating institution;

124 (d) All Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
125 student recipients shall be required to participate in an advising
126 component related to the Mississippi Articulation and Transfer
127 Tool (MATT) to ensure their understanding of course
128 transferability. Credits earned with a final grade of C or above
129 on the eligible student's college transcript in courses offered
130 through the program, whether academic or career and technical,
131 shall transfer to any postsecondary institution in Mississippi;

132 (e) Books, course materials, tools, supplies, lab fees,
133 transportation costs and other applicable course fees shall be the
134 responsibility of the student or high school district; and

135 (f) Middle college students shall be qualified for the
136 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
137 funding only if the institution complies with the requirements of
138 the manual.

139 (3) To ensure appropriate articulation of college credits to
140 other institutions, only the courses on the "Approved Academic
141 Dual Credit Listing" shall be eligible for funding.



142 (4) Early college students are not eligible for the
143 Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program
144 funding.

145 **SECTION 6.** Section 37-109-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
146 brought forward as follows:

37-109-9. In addition to the criteria established in Section
37-109-7, the following program participation criteria must be
adhered to:

150 (a) Future enrollment at the providing institution
151 cannot be a requirement for a student to be eligible for Dual
152 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program funds;

153 (b) Community college career and technical education
154 (CTE) courses approved in the manual shall be eligible for
155 funding;

156 (c) The board shall promulgate rules as necessary to
157 implement and administer this section;

164 (e) If the state appropriation is insufficient to fully
165 fund all students eligible for participation in the program in a
166 given year, those funds shall be prorated to the student's account



167 at the eligible participating institution by an amount to be
168 determined by the board. The student or school district will then
169 be responsible for the remaining balance due for the course taken
170 at the providing institution;

171 (f) The board may conduct its own annual audits of any
172 institution participating in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual
173 Credit Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke an
174 institution's eligibility to receive future funds under the
175 program if it finds that the institution has not complied with the
176 provisions of the manual and the requirements established in
177 Section 37-109-7(1);

178 (g) The board may conduct its own annual audits of
179 students participating in the Mississippi Dual Enrollment/Dual
180 Credit Scholarship Program. The board may suspend or revoke a
181 high school's eligibility to participate in the program if it
182 finds the student or high school has not complied with the
183 provisions of the manual and the requirements established in
184 Section 37-109-7(2);

185 (h) The average community college credit hour tuition
186 amount for the current academic year, as referenced in Section
187 37-109-7(1)(e), shall be provided annually by the Mississippi
188 Community College Board to the executive director of the board;

189 (i) If a public institution chooses not to participate
190 in the program, or if a public institution in the eligible
191 student's region does not have a particular program the eligible



192 student wants to enroll in but the program is available at another
193 public institution, a student shall have the option of enrolling
194 at a program at another participating public institution;

195 (j) Public school districts or charter schools and
196 institutions participating in the program shall be permitted to
197 enter into agreements under Section 37-15-38, which allow students
198 to enroll and complete additional dual credit or dual enrollment
199 courses, with the goal of increasing the number of students
200 graduating from high school with an associate level degree or
201 other nationally recognized credential. This chapter is intended
202 to provide funding and structure for a minimum standardized dual
203 enrollment/dual credit program across the state;

204 (k) To encourage more participation in the program, a
205 final grade of C or above in a three (3) credit hour dual credit
206 course, academic or career and technical, shall be weighted the
207 same as a three (3) or above in an Advanced Placement course final
208 examination in the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.
209 Only courses included in the approved dual credit course list
210 referenced in the manual shall be weighted in the model; and

211 (l) There is established in the State Treasury a
212 special fund to be designated the "Mississippi Dual
213 Enrollment/Dual Credit Scholarship Program" into which shall be
214 deposited those funds appropriated by the Legislature, and any
215 other funds that may be made available, for the purpose of
216 implementing the program established under this chapter. Money in



217 the fund at the end of the fiscal year shall not lapse into the
218 General Fund, and interest earned on any amounts deposited into
219 the fund shall be credited to the special fund;

220 (m) The program requires specific appropriation by the
221 Legislature.

222 **SECTION 7.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
223 and after July 1, 2025.

