

SENATE BILL 478

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6lr3440
CF 6lr2118

By: **Senator McKay**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Washington County – Institutions of Higher Education – Dually Enrolled**
3 **Students**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of “dually enrolled student” to include both a
5 nonpublic secondary school student and a homeschool student in Washington County
6 so that these students are eligible to apply for the Part–Time Grant Program and
7 the Early College Access Grant; and generally relating to institutions of higher
8 education and dually enrolled students.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 15–127, 18–1401, and 18–14A–01
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
15 Article – Education
16 Section 18–14A–02 and 18–14A–03
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Education**

22 15–127.

23 (a) (1) In this section, “dually enrolled student” means a student who is dually
24 enrolled in **AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE AND:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(i) A **PUBLIC** secondary school in the State; [and]

(ii) [An institution of higher education in the State] **A NONPUBLIC
SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY; OR**

(III) A HOME SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

(2) “Dually enrolled student” includes a student enrolled in a credit or noncredit certificate or license program, course, or sequence of courses that leads to certification or licensure at an institution of higher education in the State.

(b) A public institution of higher education may not charge tuition to a dually enrolled student.

(c) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, for each dually enrolled student who is enrolled in a public school in the county, the county board shall pay 75% of the cost of tuition for a public institution of higher education in the State.

(d) (1) If there is an agreement before July 1, 2020, between a public, **NONPUBLIC, OR HOME** school and a public institution of higher education in which the public institution of higher education charges less than 75% of the cost of tuition to a dually enrolled student, the county board shall pay the cost of tuition under the existing agreement.

(2) Every 2 years, a public, **NONPUBLIC, OR HOME** school and a public institution of higher education may evaluate and modify an agreement made under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

18–1401.

(a) In this section, “part–time student” means a student who:

(1) Is enrolled in a degree–granting program at an eligible institution and taking at least 3 but no more than 11 semester hours of courses each semester; or

(2) Is dually enrolled in [a secondary school in the State and] an institution of higher education **IN THE STATE AND:**

(I) A PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE STATE;

**(II) A NONPUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON
COUNTY; OR**

(III) A HOME SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

(b) In cooperation with the institutions of higher education in the State, the Commission shall establish and administer a grant program for undergraduate part-time students.

(c) A recipient of a part-time grant shall:

(1) Except as provided in § 18-1401.1 of this subtitle, be a resident of the State; and

(2) Have demonstrated a definite financial need according to criteria established by the Commission.

(d) For courses completed under the program, a recipient who is dually enrolled in a secondary school in the State and an institution of higher education may not be required to receive credit from a secondary school and an institution of higher education at the same time.

18-14A-01.

(a) (1) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Dually enrolled student" means a student who is dually enrolled in:

(i) 1. A **PUBLIC** secondary school in the State;

2. A **NONPUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY; OR**

3. A **HOME SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY**; and

(ii) An institution of higher education in the State.

(3) "Grant" means the Early College Access Grant.

(b) There is an Early College Access Grant that provides financial assistance to dually enrolled students in the State.

(c) In cooperation with institutions of higher education in the State, the Commission shall administer the Grant.

(d) A recipient of a grant shall:

(1) Be a dually enrolled student; and

(2) Demonstrate financial need according to criteria established by the Commission.

(e) For courses completed under the Grant, a recipient is not required to receive credit from a secondary school and an institution of higher education at the same time.

18-14A-02.

(a) Funds for the Grant shall be allocated by the Commission to an institution of higher education based on the number of dually enrolled students receiving credit for courses completed at the institution.

(b) Funds for the Grant shall be as provided in the annual budget of the Commission by the Governor.

18-14A-03.

The Commission shall:

(1) Establish guidelines for awarding the Grant to dually enrolled students; and

(2) Adopt any other guidelines or regulations necessary for the administration of this subtitle.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2026.