

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
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.

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

21 18-1401.

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

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

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

(D) A PUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN THE STATE:

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

30 (III) A HOME SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY.

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

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

13 18-14A-01.

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

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

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

2. A NONPUBLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON

18 OCTOBER, 1911.

3. A HOME SCHOOL IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, and

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

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

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

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

26 (d) A recipient of a grant shall:

27 (1) Be a dually enrolled student; and

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

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

3 18-14A-02.

9 18-14A-03.

10 The Commission shall:

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

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

15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
16 1, 2026.