

## **Supporting College Success through Dual Enrollment Act**

Senators Bernie Sanders, Patrick Leahy and Chris Murphy

**What is Dual Enrollment?** Dual Enrollment programs allow high school students, usually juniors and seniors, to take college-level classes and earn credit that counts toward both high school and college graduation.

### **Why is Dual Enrollment Important to Low-Income Students?**

- In the United States today, we have a crisis of inequality of opportunity in higher education. Low-income high school students who could gain admission to college and succeed academically are not pursuing higher education.
- Today, 80% of high income, low performing students attend college. Yet, high performing students from low-income families only have a 20% chance of pursuing a higher education.
- Dual Enrollment programs increase college aspiration rates for low-income, first generation students, and ease the transition from secondary to higher education.
- Students who participate in Dual Enrollment programs begin college having earned college credits in high school, shortening their time to graduation and lowering out-of-pocket cost.
- Participation in dual-enrollment has a statistically significant impact on college going rates, GPA, and graduation rates for students who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education, including low-income, first generation and minority students.

### **What Does This Legislation Do?**

The Increasing College Success through Dual Enrollment Act would address many of the barriers low-income and first-generation students face when trying to access dual enrollment programs:

- Creates a grant program to states that would pay for tuition, books and other costs for high school students from moderate to low-income families who participate in Dual Enrollment programs.
- Requires states to align K-12, higher education and CTE systems to support dual enrollment, and guarantee that quality dual enrollment programs are available in every high school.
- Fosters relationships between colleges and high schools to create a dual-enrollment pipeline and make college opportunities a reality for low-income students.
- Ensures students and families receive high quality counseling on dual enrollment options, and that students receive the support they need while participating in dual enrollment courses.
- Total Authorized Amount - \$150 million.

This legislation has been endorsed by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), and the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC).