

SB07-148

Concerning Expanding Simultaneous Enrollment in Secondary and Postsecondary Institutions

(Passed both Houses, Signed by the Senate President, awaiting signatures of Speaker of the House and Governor)

Summary of Legislation

- Creates the "Fast College Fast Jobs Act".
- Allows eligible school districts to partner with higher education institutions to enable high school students, within five years, to simultaneously complete the requirements for a high school diploma and an associate's degree or a career and technical education certificate.
- The eligible school district must have had a graduation rate of less than seventy-five percent for the 2004-05 academic year (as reported by the Department) to participate in the pilot program. The "target high school" must serve grades nine through twelve.
- The eligible school district must enter into a contract with one or more institutions of higher education to implement a dual degree program within the two years preceding the effective date of this bill. The contract at a minimum must specify:
 - Level of academic readiness
 - Limitation on the number of students enrolled
 - Limitation on the number of higher education courses enrolled in each semester
 - Associate's degree programs or careers and technical education programs that are available
 - Financial provisions for funding each student's enrollment
 - Allow students to enroll in courses offered by the institution of higher education but only in accordance with any age-waiver procedures the institution may have in place
- The contract entered between the eligible school district and the higher education institution will be reviewed for approval or disapproval by the institutions governing board and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.
- The person providing the higher education instruction doesn't have to hold a teacher's license.
- The higher education institution that chooses to participate in the pilot program must adopt guidelines by which the institution of higher education may participate in the pilot program.

- Each student who chooses to participate in the fast college fast jobs education program must begin the program in the ninth grade and take a prescribed schedule of high school courses and higher education courses to ensure that the student earns a high school diploma and an associate's degree or a career and technical education certificate in five years.
 - The courses will need to have a sufficient level of rigor to ensure that a student develops a sufficiently high level of skills to successfully complete postsecondary-level course work.
 - The student must maintain a minimum 2.0 grade point average for each semester during which the student is in the program. The eligible school district may also establish such additional requirements as it deems appropriate.
 - The eligible school district must provide regularly scheduled counseling and other appropriate student support services for participating students throughout the five year in the program.

- The eligible school district that chooses to participate in the pilot program will not be required to provide or pay for transportation to or from an institution of higher education.

- The eligible school district will annually notify students enrolled in the target schools and their parents of the availability and requirements of the program.

- The eligible school district that chooses to participate shall include each student that participates in the pupil enrollment of the school district; except that in any academic year in which the student is enrolled in at least twelve credit hours in higher education courses as of October 1, the eligible school district will receive 85% of the amount of the districts per pupil revenue for that student.

- Negotiate the amount and payment by the district and the institution of the costs for students enrolled in the higher education courses
 - Costs of tuition
 - Costs of providing counseling and tutoring services
 - Other applicable fees and student's books
 - A student shall not be eligible to receive a stipend from the college opportunity fund program

- On or before Dec 15, 2008 and on or before Dec 15 each year thereafter, the eligible school district participating must submit to the department a report specifying for each target high school:
 - Number of students in each grades nine thru twelve and in the fifth year who are participating
 - Number of student who left the program in the preceding year and reasons

for leaving

- Number of students who successfully completed the program in the preceding year, the area the associate's degree or a career and technical education certificate was received and the number who are employed and where if known.
- On or before March 1, 2009, the Department must provide a summary report to the Education and Finance Committees of the General Assembly and the Governor's Office.