

Subject Higher education: funding graduate training for concurrent enrollment teachers

Authors Bierman and others

Analyst Nathan Hopkins

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Overview

Concurrent enrollment (CE) courses are college courses offered at a high school in partnership with a postsecondary institution. The courses are free to students and are typically taught by a high school teacher. Students who complete CE courses earn both high school and college credit.

In 2015, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) — which is the primarily accrediting body for postsecondary institutions in Minnesota — clarified its requirements regarding the qualifications that a faculty member must have to teach college content. Now, HLC requires that CE instructors possess a master’s degree in the content area being taught, or a master’s degree in another field with at least 18 credit hours in the relevant content area. These standards are shared by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP), the sole accrediting body for CE partnerships. Current Minnesota law requires postsecondary institutions to conform to NACEP standards by the 2020–2021 school year. *See Minn. Stat. § 124D.091, subd. 1.*

These changes have increased demand for postgraduate courses among high school teachers. This bill seeks to increase the supply of those postgraduate courses by creating a new statutory grant program within the Office of Higher Education (OHE). The program would fund postgraduate courses at Minnesota colleges and universities that would allow high school teachers to gain the qualifications needed to teach CE classes.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Grants to postsecondary institutions for concurrent enrollment instructor training. Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a program within OHE to provide grants to postsecondary institutions offering postgraduate courses to concurrent enrollment teachers working in Minnesota secondary schools. The program must address the HLC’s competency standards.

Section	Description
	<p>Subd. 2. Application process. Instructs OHE to develop an application process within specified parameters. Permits OHE to establish an advisory council to assist with administering the program.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Grants. Authorizes OHE to award grants to postsecondary institutions and lays out the parameters for use of the grant funds. Provides that the grants may be used for up to one year and allows a postsecondary institution to apply for multiple grants.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Outcome report requirements. Requires grant recipients to report to OHE regarding outcomes.</p> <p>Subd. 5. Report. Requires OHE to report to the legislature regarding the grant program.</p>
2	<p>Appropriation. Provides \$1.5 million per year in ongoing funding to OHE for the grant program in section 1 of the bill.</p>



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