

Subject Dual enrollment
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Summary

The postsecondary enrollment options (PSEO) statute was first enacted in 1985. The purpose of the program as stated in section 124D.09 is “to promote rigorous academic pursuits and to provide a wider variety of options to high school pupils by encouraging and enabling secondary pupils to enroll full-time or part-time in nonsectarian courses or programs in eligible postsecondary institutions.”

The Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) conducted an evaluation of the PSEO program in 1996. At that time, six percent of public school juniors and seniors took PSEO courses, and only public postsecondary institutions were eligible to participate. Key findings included:

- Students, their parents, and postsecondary administrators generally were satisfied with the program, but not high school administrators.
- The main reason for students’ participation was to get a head start on college credits and save money, although distance from a postsecondary school was important outstate.
- Program participants generally met higher admissions standards and earned higher grades than regular postsecondary students, except at technical colleges.
- The program reduced expenditures for K-12 education by about \$11.8 million during fiscal year 1994 but increased the state’s postsecondary costs by about \$16.3 million.

This bill requests the OLA to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the PSEO programs established under section 124D.09 and prepare a report by January 15, 2027. The report must include an evaluation of education benefits for students participating in the program and fiscal impacts on school districts.