Enrolled

House Bill 2263

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CHAPTER ..................................................

AN ACT

Relating to accelerated college credit programs; creating new provisions; amending ORS 340.320 and 340.330; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. As used in ORS 340.320 and sections 2 and 3 of this 2019 Act, “accelerated college credit programs” includes dual credit programs, two-plus-two programs, advanced placement programs and International Baccalaureate programs.

SECTION 2. (1) The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, shall administer the Accelerated College Credit Planning Partnership Grant Program as provided by this section.

(2) Grants shall be distributed under this section for the purpose of encouraging partnerships, formed for offering accelerated college credit programs, between:

(a) A school district, a consortium of school districts or an education service district; and

(b) A post-secondary institution of education or a consortium of post-secondary institutions of education.

(3) A school district, a consortium of school districts or an education service district may apply to the department for a grant under this section if the school district, or at least one of the school districts in a consortium of school districts or an education service district, has:

(a)(A) Less than five percent of the school district’s high school students participating in an accelerated college credit program; or

(B) A low percentage of the school district’s historically underrepresented students attending a post-secondary institution of education;

(b) A plan to offer accelerated college credit program courses that:

(A) Have been previously unavailable through the school district;

(B) Conform with standards established for accelerated college credit program courses as described in subsection (6) of this section; and

(C) Align with statewide requirements for transferable courses or reflect local needs for a career and technical education program; and

(c) A partnership agreement with a post-secondary institution of education or a consortium of post-secondary institutions of education to offer accelerated college credit program courses as described in paragraph (b) of this subsection.
(4) A school district, a consortium of school districts or an education service district that receives a grant under this section may use moneys from the grant to:
   (a) Distribute information to students and families about opportunities related to accelerated college credit programs, including implications for financial aid, costs to families and credit transferability;
   (b) Provide academic advising to students taking an accelerated college credit program course;
   (c) Promote a culture that encourages students to continue education at a post-secondary institution of education;
   (d) Develop courses offered as part of an accelerated college credit program and ensure horizontal and vertical curriculum alignment;
   (e) Hire staff to provide instruction of courses that are part of an accelerated college credit program and any other staff necessary to provide support for the accelerated college credit program;
   (f) Facilitate collaboration between teachers and staff at high schools and faculty at post-secondary institutions of education for accelerated college credit programs;
   (g) Coordinate regional offerings of accelerated college credit programs to create coherence across this state;
   (h) Leverage emerging best practices;
   (i) Purchase books and materials and pay for other costs, other than test fees, related to accelerated college credit programs; and
   (j) Provide classroom supplies for accelerated college credit programs.
(5) Grants shall be awarded under this section based on rules of the State Board of Education.
(6) Accelerated college credit program courses funded by a grant distributed under this section must comply with any standards developed to ensure that credits earned for the course transfer to any public post-secondary institution of education in this state as if the credits were earned at that institution.
(7)(a) For the purposes of grants distributed under this section, the department may accept contributions of funds and assistance from the United States Government and its agencies or from any other source, public or private, and agree to conditions placed on the funds not inconsistent with the purposes of this section; and
   (b) All funds received by the department under this section shall be paid into the Accelerated College Credit Account established under ORS 340.330 for the purposes described in this section.
(8) No later than December 1 of each year, the department shall submit a report on the issuance of grants under this section to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education.

SECTION 3. (1) The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, shall administer the Accelerated College Credit Partnership Enhancement Grant Program as provided by this section.
(2) Grants shall be distributed under this section for the purpose of enhancing accelerated college credit programs and partnerships.
(3) A school district, a post-secondary institution of education or a consortium of post-secondary institutions of education may apply to the department for a grant under this section.
(4) A school district, a post-secondary institution of education or a consortium of post-secondary institutions of education that receives a grant under this section may use moneys from the grant to:
   (a) Establish equitable and sustainable funding for accelerated college credit programs;
   (b) Encourage collaboration between teachers and staff at high schools and faculty at post-secondary institutions of education for accelerated college credit programs;
(c) Ensure information is distributed to students and families about opportunities related to accelerated college credit programs, including implications for financial aid, costs to families and credit transferability;

(d) Coordinate accelerated college credit program within and across regions of this state; and

(e) Collect and analyze qualitative experience data related to the provision of accelerated college credit programs, with an emphasis on the provision of the accelerated college credit programs to students from traditionally underrepresented communities or from low-income families.

(5) Grants shall be awarded under this section based on rules of the State Board of Education and shall take into account:

(a) The previous school year’s student enrollment in accelerated college credit program courses; and

(b) Credits earned by historically underrepresented students in post-secondary institutions of education during the previous school year.

(6)(a) For the purposes of grants distributed under this section, the department may accept contributions of funds and assistance from the United States Government and its agencies or from any other source, public or private, and agree to conditions placed on the funds not inconsistent with the purposes of this section; and

(b) All funds received by the department under this section shall be paid into the Accelerated College Credit Account established under ORS 340.330 for the purposes described in this section.

(7) No later than December 1 of each year, the department shall submit a report on the issuance of grants under this section to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education.

SECTION 4. ORS 340.320 is amended to read:

340.320. [(1) As used in this section, “accelerated college credit programs” includes dual credit programs, two-plus-two programs, advanced placement programs and International Baccalaureate programs.]

[(2) The Department of Education shall administer a grant program that provides grants for the purposes of:]

[(a) Providing education or training to teachers who will provide or are providing instruction in accelerated college credit programs;]

[(b) Assisting students in paying for books, materials and other costs, other than test fees, related to accelerated college credit programs; and]

[(c) Providing classroom supplies for accelerated college credit programs.]  

(1) The Department of Education, in collaboration with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, shall administer the Accelerated College Credit Instructor Grant Program as provided by this section.

(2) Grants shall be distributed under this section for the purpose of providing education or training to teachers who will provide or are providing instruction in accelerated college credit programs.

(3) Any school district, education service district, community college district or [state institution of higher education] public post-secondary institution of education in this state may individually or jointly apply for a grant under this section.

[(4) If a grant is awarded for the purpose of providing education or training to teachers who will provide or are providing instruction in an accelerated college credit program:]

[(a) The amount of the grant may not exceed one-third of the total cost of the education or training; and]

[(b) The department may award the grant on the condition that the teacher, school district, community college district and state institution of higher education pay the balance of the cost of the education or training in a proportion agreed to by the teacher, districts and institution.]
(4) A school district, an education service district, a community college district or a public post-secondary institution of education may use moneys from the grant to:
   (a) Expand support for school districts, education service districts and public post-secondary institutions of education to provide professional learning opportunities for high school instructors of accelerated college credit program courses;
   (b) Ensure high school teachers have dependable online access to graduate courses meeting community college requirements for dual credit instructors;
   (c) Improve professional relationships among instructors of accelerated college credit programs courses;
   (d) Develop online graduate courses in content areas identified by the department in collaboration with the commission as needing development; and
   (e) Collect and analyze qualitative experience data related to the provision of professional development and training to instructors of accelerated college credit program courses, with an emphasis on development and training programs that are able to increase the number of instructors who are qualified to provide accelerated college credit program courses.

(5) For the purposes [described in subsection (2) of] of grants distributed under this section, the department may:
   (a) Accept contributions of funds and assistance from the United States Government and its agencies or from any other source, public or private, and agree to conditions placed on the funds not inconsistent with the purposes of [subsection (2) of] this section; and
   (b) Enter into agreements with school districts, education service districts, community college districts and [state institutions of higher education] public and private post-secondary institutions of education related to the funding to provide education or training to teachers who will provide or are providing instruction in an accelerated college credit program.

(6) All funds received by the department under this section shall be paid into the Accelerated College Credit Account established under ORS 340.330 to be used for the purposes described in [subsection (2) of] this section.

(7) No later than December 1 of each year, the department shall submit a report on the issuance of grants under this section to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education.

SECTION 5. ORS 340.330 is amended to read:

340.330. The Accelerated College Credit Account is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Accelerated College Credit Account shall be credited to the account. Moneys in the Accelerated College Credit Account are continuously appropriated to the Department of Education for the purposes described in ORS 340.320 (2) and sections 2 and 3 of this 2019 Act.

SECTION 6. For the 2019-2021 biennium, the Department of Education shall provide grants under the Accelerated College Credit Instructor Grant Program to:

(1) School districts and education service districts for tuition costs of up to 65 high school instructors to become qualified as instructors of accelerated college credit program courses; and
(2) Institutions of post-secondary education for at least six content areas for graduate course offerings.

SECTION 7. (1) The Higher Education Coordinating Commission, in collaboration with post-secondary institutions of education, shall study current and best practices to recommend a range of content areas of graduate courses to meet dual credit program qualifications in this state.

(2) The commission shall submit a report on the study to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than September 15, 2020.

SECTION 8. (1) The Teacher Standards and Practices Commission shall consult with educator preparation program providers to determine whether providers should provide an accelerated learning specialization.
The commission shall submit a report on the study to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education no later than September 15, 2020.

SECTION 9. This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2019 Act takes effect on its passage.