

# S.5616 (Mayer) / A. 8941 (Benedetto)

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<p><b>BILL</b></p> <p>S.5616 (Mayer) / A. 8941 (Benedetto)</p>
<p><b>SUBJECT</b></p> <p>Relates to tuition assistance program awards for dual or concurrent enrollment coursework</p>
<p><b>DATE</b></p> <p>February 22, 2024</p>
<p><b>SUPPORT</b></p>

The Business Council of New York State, Inc. submits memorandum of support for the Dual Enrollment S.5616 (Mayer) / A.8941 (Benedetto) legislative bill. The Dual Enrollment legislation presents a significant opportunity to enhance educational access and attainment for students across our state. It encompasses college and high school programs, through partnerships between school districts and higher education institutions that allow high school students to enroll in college courses and earn transferable college credit.

In many states, Dual Enrollment has been historically used as an acceleration strategy for high-achieving learners, and often served middle- or higher-income students, though these opportunities have been found to be highly beneficial for all students. Taking college courses in high school has been found to benefit Black, Latino, and White students, and its positive effects on college degree attainment are even stronger for low-income students. Yet in many cases, the students who are likely to benefit the most – students of color and students from low-income backgrounds – are not participating at high levels.

Data, produced by the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, shows that while many community colleges faced enrollment declines, post-pandemic, these institutions reported higher enrollment of Dual Enrollment students. Dual Enrollment programs saw a growth in their program by over 11%. In states like Iowa, 97% of students participating in Dual Enrollment programs were able to earn a full year of college credits without the burden of tuition and loans.

New York is experiencing a time of an evolving educational system with more emphasis on diverse post-secondary education attainment and work-based learning to ensure students are set up for success. By facilitating partnerships between high schools and higher education institutions, Dual Enrollment programs empower students to explore college-level coursework in a supportive environment. This early exposure not only fosters academic readiness but supports a seamless transition.

The benefits of Dual Enrollment go beyond academic achievement to include personal and professional growth. Engaging in college-level coursework fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and time management skills, equipping students with the tools necessary for success in higher education and beyond. It is essential for our state's success that this opportunity is utilized to enact meaningful change and invest in the future of our students. By supporting the Dual Enrollment legislation, we are investing in the next generation of leaders, innovators, and changemakers. Together, we can create a more inclusive and equitable educational landscape where every student has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.

The potential benefits of Dual Enrollment are vast and far-reaching, offering a pathway to success for countless students across our state. This legislation will have long-lasting impacts for our students, schools, education system, and workforce. It is for these reasons that The Business Council of New York State, and our members, support the passing of the Dual Enrollment legislation.