

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6898**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1246

**NOTE PREPARED:** Apr 6, 2008

**BILL AMENDED:** Mar 14, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Student Graduation Plan and Online Learning.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Austin

**FIRST SPONSOR:** Sen. Lubbers

**BILL STATUS:** Enrolled

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
 **DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill does the following.

*Concurrent Enrollment Partnership:* This bill establishes the concurrent enrollment partnership to coordinate dual credit programs among Indiana high schools and state educational institutions.

*Graduation Plan:* The bill changes the name of the Student Career Plan to the Student Graduation Plan.

*Dual Credit Program:* The bill provides methods of certifying the income of a student who is eligible for the waiver of tuition and fees at a state educational institution in the Double Up for College Dual Credit Program.

*Virtual Learning:* This bill creates the Interim Study Committee on Education Matters.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Virtual Learning:* This bill establishes an Interim Study Committee on Education Matters. The committee is to operate under the policies governing study committees adopted by the Legislative Council. Legislative Council resolutions in the past have established budgets for interim study committees in the amount of \$9,500 per interim for committees with fewer than 16 members.

The committee is to review and make recommendations on:

1. The availability of virtual learning in Indiana.
2. How virtual learning services are provided by other states.

3. Standards of quality and alignment with Indiana’s content standards.
4. Accreditation standards and pricing for virtual learning opportunities.
5. Funding for students enrolled in full-time and part-time virtual learning programs.
6. Other issues.

*Concurrent Enrollment Partnership:* The bill creates the Indiana Concurrent Enrollment Partnership to foster innovation and collaboration among state educational institutions and school corporations. The partnership is to develop a plan to align dual credit programs and expand the program to every high school by the 2010-2011 school year. The partnership membership is to include:

1. Concurrent enrollment directors from each state educational institution.
2. Person appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
3. Person appointed by the Commission for Higher Education.
4. School superintendent appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
5. A representative of the Indiana Non-Public Education Association appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
6. A school board member appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
7. A representative of the Independent Colleges of Indiana.
8. A high school teacher participating in a concurrent enrollment program and appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
9. A high school guidance counselor appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.
10. An individual representing the Center for Excellency in Leadership of Learning appointed by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Commission for Higher Education is to provide support for the Concurrent Enrollment Partnership. The partnership would be funded within the Commission’s existing level of resources.

*Dual Credit Program:* Currently, a student may qualify to have tuition waived to a state educational institution if the student is participating in the Double Up for College Program and is eligible for free or reduced lunch. The bill would allow other ways to certify that the family income is less than 185% of the poverty. The student could use any of the following types of information to qualify for the tuition waiver:

1. A free or reduced lunch application form.
2. A state or federal income tax return.
3. A certification from the Office of the Secretary of Family and Social Services.
4. Any state agency certification based upon income records.

The bill could increase the number of students that might qualify for the waiver. The state higher education budget calculation provides about \$3,500 for each full-time equivalent student that would enroll in the program. The impact would depend on the number of additional students that might enroll. The impact would be about \$70,000 for each additional 100 students who might qualify.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Graduation Plan:* The bill changes the name of the career plan to the graduation plan and has the plan to begin in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade instead of 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The fiscal impact of the change should be minor.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** See *Explanation of Local Expenditures*.

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education, State Educational Institutions.

**Local Agencies Affected:** School Corporations.

**Information Sources:**

**Fiscal Analyst:** Chuck Mayfield, 317-232-4825.