
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2021 Wisconsin Act 217 [2021 Senate Bill 833]

Grants to Support Teaching College Courses in High Schools

2021 Wisconsin Act 217 eliminates a sunset date for a teacher credential grant program and clarifies that high school students attending independent charter schools are eligible to participate in the Early College Credit Program.

DUAL ENROLLMENT CREDENTIAL GRANTS

Under prior law, school districts, private schools participating in a parental choice program, and charter schools established under s. 118.40 (2r), Stats., are eligible for a Higher Educational Aids Board grant to assist high school teachers to earn the minimum qualifications necessary to teach college courses in high school.¹

Act 217 removes a provision that ended funding for this program on June 30, 2021. The change enables HEAB to continue issuing such grants.

EARLY COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAM

The Early College Credit Program (ECCP) permits students in grades 9-12 at either a public or private school to attend and earn credit at an institution of higher education in Wisconsin. An eligible student may participate in ECCP at either no cost or a reduced cost, depending on whether the student earns postsecondary credit, high school credit, or both, and whether the student's school district or private school offers a comparable course. Under prior law, students enrolled in an independent charter school, which is a charter school established pursuant to s. 118.40 (2r) or (2x), Stats., were not eligible to participate in ECCP.

Act 217 adds references to independent charter school governing boards throughout the ECCP statute. This change permits students enrolled in independent charter schools to participate in ECCP in the same manner that private and public school students may participate.

Effective date: April 2, 2022

EH:ksm

¹ The accrediting agency for Wisconsin institutions of higher education, the Higher Learning Commission, requires that high school faculty teaching college courses have either a master's degree or higher in their area of instruction, or a master's degree or higher in a different area of instruction and have completed 18 graduate credits in their area of instruction. [See [HLC Criteria for Accreditation](#).]