



The Education Trust–West

Fierce advocates for
educational justice,
pre-k through
college.

May 7, 2024

The Honorable Josh Newman, Chair
Senate Education Committee
1021 O Street, Room 6740
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Assembly Bill 359 (Holden) Pupil instruction: dual enrollment: College and Career Access Pathways partnerships – As Amended January 22, 2024
SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Newman,

As an organization committed to advancing policies and practices that dismantle the racial and economic barriers embedded in California’s education system, EdTrust–West (ETW) is pleased to support AB 359 (Holden). This bill builds upon efforts to make college and career access pathways (CCAP) more accessible to college for students of color and first-generation students, as Latino and Black students are disproportionately underrepresented in dual enrollment classes.

This bill would reformat the CCAP dual enrollment program, streamlining the establishment of new CCAP partnerships and removing key implementation hurdles that Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Community Colleges face. These reforms include eliminating access barriers like the need for the school principal’s recommendation, expanding partnership opportunities with community colleges, permitting online course options, and ensuring students earn transferable college credits.

Dual enrollment has the potential to be a powerful tool for opening more pathways to college degrees and for the success of California’s high school and postsecondary students. In our landmark report, [Jumpstart](#), which analyzes dual enrollment data at California’s community colleges, we found that LEAs and community colleges are not yet equitably serving Black, Native, and Latinx students through dual enrollment. Therefore, strategies to increase dual enrollment access and participation must center the needs of these students and families. College and Career Access Pathways, or CCAP partnerships, aim to provide early exposure to college courses for students who may not be college-bound or are underrepresented in higher education.

AB 359 will eliminate outdated barriers that prevent students from accessing college coursework through CCAP while also making it easier for LEAs and community college districts to develop partnership agreements and expand course offerings. These reforms to CCAP are urgently needed to maximize the participation of underrepresented students, increase college completion, and close educational equity gaps in the state.

For these reasons, we are proud to support AB 359 and urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian M. Rivas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Brian Rivas
Senior Director of Policy and Government Relations

cc: Assemblymember Chris Holden
Natasha Collins, Assembly Appropriations Consultant