

## **Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Grant Summary**

Grant Overview: All Pennsylvania school districts, area career and technical schools, charter schools, cyber charter schools and regional charter schools must enter into at least one agreement with an institution of higher education (IHE) approved to operate in the commonwealth that allows secondary school students to attend the IHE while the students are enrolled in the school entity.

To that end, the PDE Division of Instructional Quality will award up to \$6.5 million in state funds to eligible school entities through a competitive grant process to create or expand dual credit programs.

Eligible proposals will create or expand equitable and innovative dual credit opportunities for all secondary school students, all students enrolled in the school entity, including students experiencing educational instability, students enrolled in career and technical education programs, low-income students, and historically underserved student groups. Specifically, consideration will be given to proposals that include (but are not limited to) any of the following:

- 1) Creation or expansion of a dual credit program whereby secondary school students receive credits at or through an IHE approved to operate in the commonwealth and wherein credits earned by secondary school students are the same as those offered to postsecondary school students enrolled at an IHE.
- 2) Creation or expansion of a dual credit program whereby secondary school students may use the credits earned at an IHE toward the completion of courses required for graduation at the school entity.
- 3) Creation or expansion of a dual credit program wherein courses are offered in-person, online, or a combination of in-person and online.
- 4) Creation or expansion of a dual credit program wherein the school entity pays for the tuition, fees, supplies, and/or other costs related to the secondary school student's enrollment in courses at an IHE.
- 5) Creation or expansion of opportunities for the school entity's teachers to become appropriately credentialed by an IHE to teach or facilitate IHE courses for secondary students, including completing coursework and/or professional development as required by an IHE for credentialing.
- 6) Expansion of the number of agreements with IHEs that offer dual credit opportunities to secondary school students. Funds received through this dual credit grant may be used to offset out-of-state IHE registration and approval fees.

For the purposes of this grant application, expansion of a dual credit program includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Increasing the number of courses offered for dual credit with an approved IHE.
- Increasing the number of students participating in dual credit opportunities, including students experiencing educational instability, students enrolled in career and technical education programs, low-income students, and historically underserved student groups.

- Augmenting the modality or location of course offerings, to include online courses, hybrid courses, courses at the school entity, or courses at the IHE.

Amount of Award: \$75,000 maximum for qualified expenditures from 8/1/22-6/30/24

Due Date/Notification of Award: Applications due Friday, March 10, 2023. No notification date given.

Alternatives if not Awarded: N/A

WCSD Resources Required: None.

Administrative Recommendation: That the Board of School Directors instructs the administration to develop and submit an application to the Dual Credit Grant program on behalf of either or both the Warren County School District and Warren County Career Center to create or expand equitable and innovative dual credit opportunities for students.