

The Dual Credit Innovation Act

Congressman Van Taylor

Studies show students who participate in dual credit programs in high school are better prepared and more successful in college, graduate from college at higher rates and with less debt, and are three times more likely to graduate in four years and have higher grades than their peers who don't take dual credit courses in high school.

To better prepare students for college, reduce the amount of time it takes to earn a degree, and lower the cost of college, Congressman Van Taylor has proposed the *Dual Credit Innovation Act*. His bill seeks to both expand dual credit offerings and create a forum to share innovative best practices between education institutions across the nation.

Specifically, this bill would create a “Dual Credit Innovation Award” within the United States Department of Education’s National Blue Ribbon Schools Program. Since its inception in the 1980’s, this program has served to highlight effective practices in successful schools, share best practices between schools, and improve outcomes. This new award created by Congressman Taylor’s bill would recognize innovative dual credit partnerships between schools or school districts and postsecondary institutions.

In order to be considered for recognition under the award, an eligible partnership must provide postsecondary credit that is transferable to the institution of higher education and ensure credits earned would apply toward the completion of a degree or credential recognized by the Department of Education.

By encouraging and expanding access to dual credit programs across the country, we can improve graduation rates, expedite graduations, reduce the overall cost of college, and better prepare students to enter the workforce.

