



The Prichard Committee

Building a Groundswell for a Big Bold Future

March 8, 2024

Chairman James Tipton
Kentucky House of Representatives
Kentucky State Capitol
700 Capital Avenue
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Chairman Tipton:

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence writes to express support for House Bill 399 ([HB 399](#)). The bill will allow for increased access for students to take dual credit coursework while in high school, especially for students who may not have had traditional access opportunities. Additionally, the bill broadens the class of eligible students able to receive dual credit scholarships to include sophomores and freshmen and removes cost barriers to students, which we believe will help level the playing field for Kentucky students.

We believe that HB 399 will benefit Kentucky's students and economy because:

- [Kentucky ranks 41st in postsecondary enrollment and 30th in the nation in student graduation from four-year institutions](#). Increased access to dual credit programs provides additional pathways to postsecondary enrollment and will expose more Kentucky students to rigorous dual credit coursework, therefore increasing their preparation for education beyond high school.
- Dual credit opportunities also help to level the playing field for students who may struggle with college affordability. According to a report authored by the [Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education \(CPE\)](#), dual credit students can expect savings of \$5,000 to \$24,000 in tuition when students accumulate up to a year of college credit.
- Additionally, according to [a study conducted by researchers at Columbia University](#), access to dual credit courses increase the relevance of schoolwork by enabling students to access courses related to their career goals and interests, therefore better aligning secondary curriculum to the postsecondary pursuits of students.

The Prichard Committee supports House Bill 399 for its ability to serve more Kentucky students through advanced coursework and better prepare students for life after high school.

Sincerely,

Brigitte Blom
President & CEO
Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence