

Legislative Report HB 2263

Grant Implementation for Accelerated College Credit Programs

December 2020



Table of Contents

Background	2
HB 2263 (2019) Grant Issuance during the 2019-20 School Year	2
Conclusion	4

Background

In 2019, the Oregon State Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2263, which requires the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in coordination with the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to distribute grants for three programs:

1. Accelerated College Credit Planning Partnership Grant Program
2. Accelerated College Credit Partnership Enhancement Grant Program
3. Accelerated College Credit Instructor Grant Program

HB 2263 (2019) was the result of a two-year collaboration among the Sustainable Systems for Accelerated Learning Work Group that included community college leaders, school and district leadership, Education Service Districts (ESDs), and staff from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). The intent of HB 2263 (2019) was to provide a sustainable funding source to support partnerships between school districts or Education Service Districts and post-secondary institutions in order to increase accelerated college credit programming and cultivate more and better qualified instructors of accelerated college credit courses.

The bill stipulates that, “No later than December 1 of each year, the department shall submit a report on the issuance of grants under this section to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to education.” The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the implementation of HB 2263 (2019).

HB 2263 (2019) Grant Issuance during the 2019-20 School Year

In the absence of legislative appropriation¹ to fund the two major grants created under HB 2263 (2019), neither the **Accelerated College Credit Planning Partnership Grant Program** nor the **Accelerated College Credit Partnership Enhancement Grant Program** have been implemented yet.

¹ After HB 2263 (2019) passed, it was anticipated that funding would come through the Joint Committee on Ways and Means process by restructuring existing appropriations as part of the ODE budget process. As a result, ODE’s budget did not include a policy option package to adjust existing accelerated learning appropriation contained within ODE’s Current Service Level budget. Instead, restructuring existing appropriations was a component of the Governor’s Recommended Budget in 2019. Specifically, the restructuring consolidated Accelerated Learning funding, Regional Promise funding and Supporting Accelerated Learning funding into one fund. However, this portion of the budget was not approved, and no such consolidation occurred. Additionally, neither ORS 327.815 nor ORS 327.820, the statutes through which these programs were created, were amended by HB 2263. Changes were not made to the ODE budget to alter the use of funds, nor did the Legislative Fiscal Office provide an analyst adjustment to redirect funding provided for these programs to allocations for HB 2263 programs. Without any budgetary changes and given the plain language within the budget report supporting HB 5015, both ODE and HECC have concluded that the legislative intent was to continue to fund the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate (AP/IB) test fee program and the Regional Promise Program.

After careful review of the budget report and other supporting materials, no budget adjustments were found. Therefore, no budget restructuring or additional appropriation occurred.

The Accelerated College Credit Instructor Grant Program, the third grant, was issued, albeit with a reduced budget. Section 6 of HB 2263 states that for the 2019-2021 biennium, ODE shall provide grants under the Accelerated College Credit Instructor Grant Program.

The Accelerated College Credit Instructor Grant Program was originally apportioned \$0.3 million for accelerated learning under ORS 340.330 and section 4, HB 2263. This bill provided funding for school districts and ESDs to provide tuition costs for up to 65 high school instructors to become qualified as instructors of Accelerated College Credit Program courses. Additionally, institutions could offer post-secondary education for at least six content areas for graduate course offerings.

- The funds that reimburse for teacher graduate courses were distributed through 10 ESDs throughout the state. The original grant agreements were executed in May 2020, but as a result of budget reduction discussions, funds were put on hold.
- In August 2020, the legislature voted to eliminate the second year for funding for this grant; therefore, the budget decreased from an initial \$272,000 to \$136,000.

ESD	Amount of Grant	ESD	Amount of Grant
Columbia Gorge ESD	\$9,900	Northwest Regional ESD	\$25,200
Douglas ESD	\$6,050	Southern Oregon ESD	\$4,400
High Desert ESD	\$3,300	Wallowa ESD	\$2,200
InterMountain ESD	\$22,000	Willamette ESD	\$24,750
Jefferson ESD	\$19,800	Funds in reserve	\$3,300

- This remaining \$136,000 was made available for reimbursement beginning in August 2020, with \$121,000 supporting teacher graduate study and \$15,000 (reduced from \$45,000) allocated to university development of graduate courses that can be offered online to better meet teachers' schedules.
- Three Oregon public universities, Portland State University, Southern Oregon University, and Western Oregon University, sent letters of interest to HECC regarding the opportunity to develop graduate courses for high school teachers of dual credit courses.

- Grant agreements are currently being processed that award \$5,000 to each university that expressed interest in the development of graduate courses in high need dual-credit subject areas.

Regional Promise Grant program in 2019-2020

The funds distributed in 2019-2020 were intended to increase equitable access to accelerated learning. Nine regional consortiums provided localized services in an effort to provide accelerated college credit programs. Grant recipients include InterMountain ESD, Clackamas Community College, High Desert ESD, Mt. Hood Community College, NW Regional ESD, Southern Oregon ESD, Willamette ESD, Lane ESD and Linn Benton / Lincoln ESD. The goals of each grant were based upon the local needs of the region and had an emphasis on providing opportunities to historically underrepresented students. The Regional Promise Grant was reduced to \$1,349,413 for the second year of the 2019-2021 biennium.

Conclusion

ODE, HECC ([HECC's Report on Accelerated Learning](#)), and our program partners believe in the mission of the policy and funding proposals represented by the passage of HB 2263. Creating additional opportunities for students to access college courses and intellectually stimulating learning is critical to supporting and preparing students, especially those who have been historically underserved, as they pursue post-secondary goals. ODE is committed to the implementation of HB 2263 as we understand its role in advancing equity in Oregon.