

SB 784 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Higher Education and Workforce Development

Prepared By: Chris Bechtel, LPRO Fellow

Meeting Dates: 4/29

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to develop statewide standards for dual credit programs in agriculture, forestry, and natural resource programs. It requires HECC to develop standards to ensure the quality and alignment of approved Career and Technical Student Organization programs.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Ability to develop dual credit programs
- Current dual credit standards

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A dual credit program allows a qualified high school teacher to act as proxy faculty member of the university, allowing students to receive credits for the high school course. According to HECC, in the 2023-2024 school year, 29,661 high school students enrolled in [community college](#) and 13,168 high school students enrolled in [public universities](#). In the same year, 7,419 students enrolled in agriculture and natural resource degrees at public universities.

According to the Congressional Research Service's [2022 primer on Career and Technical Education](#), career and technical student organizations (CTSOs) are nonprofit organizations that often provide co-curricular programs to give students practical experience, instruction, and opportunities to network with industry and business leaders. CTSOs approved by the Oregon Department of Education include the FFA (formerly Future Farmers of America); Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA); DECA (formerly Distributive Education Clubs of America); Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA); Future Natural Resource Leaders (FNRL); HOSA-Future Health Professionals; SkillsUSA; and the Technology Student Association (TSA). The [Oregon Department of Education](#) publishes information on locally developed student leadership, as well as obtaining official recognition as a CTSO by the State Board of Education.