Dual Enrollment and Concurrent Enrollment Strategies

California Education Code (EC) Section 48800 provides that the governing board of a school district may determine which students may benefit from advanced scholastic or vocational work. The governing board may authorize those students, upon recommendation from their principal and with parental consent, to attend a community college as a special part-time student and to enroll in one or more courses offered at the community college level. The purpose of the code is to provide educational enrichment for a limited number of eligible pupils. The educational enrichment opportunity will usually result in a request for concurrent enrollment in courses not currently offered by the approving school.

Students enrolled in Early College High Schools (ECHS) and Middle College High Schools (MCHS) can earn college credit through dual enrollment and concurrent enrollment strategies.

ECHS are innovative partnerships between public or charter secondary schools and local community colleges that allow high school students to earn both their high school diploma and Associates Degree with no cost to the student. The Foundation for California Community Colleges Web page provides a descriptive assessment of ECHS at http://www.foundationccc.org/NewsRoom/NewsRoomHome/EarlyCollegeHighSchoolsTakeCenterStage/tabid/547/Default.aspx (Outside Source).

MCHS are secondary schools located on a college campus offering challenging academic programs and designed to serve high- potential, high- risk students. MCHS offer effective support services, small class size and the opportunity for students to concurrently take some college classes at no cost to the student. The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Web page provides pertinent reference information regarding MCHS at http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/AcademicAffairs/CurriculumandInstructionUnit/MiddleCollegeHighSchool.aspx (Outside Source).

Current legislation, Senate Bill 1316 (Hancock) of 2012, exempts an ECHS and a MCHS from the 240-minute minimum school day. The legislation provides that a day of attendance for an ECHS or MCHS student is 180 minutes if the student is a special part-time student enrolled in a community college under specified provisions, or the student is in grades 11 or 12 and is also enrolled part-time in classes at California State University or the University of California campuses. Also, Senate Bill 379 (Hancock) of 2013 reduces the minimum instructional time requirements for charter schools to be considered classroom based instruction if they operate as ECHS and MCHS. Please note that Education Code Section 46146.5 provides for a reduction in time for determining attendance, but that
ECHS and MCHS must still offer their students the required number of annual instructional minutes.

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