



**RYAN GUILLEN**  
TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**GUILLEN PLANS TO STREAMLINE DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS**  
*HB 1638 Creating Statewide Academic Goals Receives Hearing*

**AUSTIN** - Texas State Representative Ryan Guillen's (D-Rural South Texas) HB 1638 will help increase quality and consistency among dual credit programs by requiring the Texas Education Agency and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to create joint statewide goals for academic dual credit programs and require high schools and postsecondary institutions to align with those goals. A public hearing on the education bill was held on **Tuesday, April 11th**.

**"In order to ensure Texas students are properly prepared for higher education, our high schools and postsecondary institutions must have the consistency, support and alignment that enable them to do so," said Guillen. "If dual credit courses are supposed to prepare students for college courses, they need to provide students with the knowledge and experience necessary for them to succeed at the next level of education."**

Currently, early college high school programs and career and technical education programs have statutorily established goals and program evaluation measures, while academic dual credit does not. As a result, program accountability is inconsistent. The state lacks a comprehensive system to oversee and evaluate dual credit outcomes and has not fully assessed which programs present the most efficient or effective models. Additionally, dual credit enrollment has been increasing in Texas. Between the 2010 to the 2014 fall semesters, dual credit enrollment grew 25% in the state. With the increasing popularity of dual credit programs in Texas, Rep. Guillen wants to increase the quality of the programs by standardizing the goals they must meet.

National best practices identify rigor, consistency and quality as essential to effective dual credit programs. HB 1638 will create goals to establish course equivalency and credit standards, describe support available to students and establish each institution's roles and responsibilities to ensure students' success.

**"Texas should strive to provide Texas students with the highest quality of education we can muster," said Guillen. "With this legislation, we can ensure Texas students experience the quality, rigor and consistency of education required to excel in higher education forums."**

HB 1638 was voted on and passed in the House Public Education Committee on **Tuesday, April 11th**.

Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

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