



Senate Education Committee
Committee hearing on S.B. 1619 by Duncan
April 12, 2011

RE: SB 1619 – “An Act relating to the calculation of average daily attendance for a public school student participating in the college credit program.”

Written Testimony

by Nancy Sharp, Director of Communications and Community Relations
Lubbock Independent School District
on behalf of Karen K. Garza, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools
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Madame Chairman and Members, thank you for this opportunity to address your committee on this very important piece of legislation, SB 1619 by Senator Robert Duncan, which impacts the future of education and college access for Texas high school students. Providing students the opportunity to successfully gain college credit in high school through dual credit, is beneficial for our students, their families and our state.

Dual-credit courses provided during high school allow students to accumulate college credit in an environment designed to support their success and accelerate their experience in college-level work at a reduced cost or at no cost to their families. For example, students in Lubbock ISD are able to gain three hours of college course credit for \$147 through our dual-credit partnership with South Plains College. The same course taken on the Lubbock campus of SPC would cost the student \$342, more than twice as much.

While there may be some concern the state is providing funding for the student through both the public school and the community college, there are significant benefits to the state that warrant the continuation and expansion of dual credit courses. In addition, a change to the current funding mechanism is unlikely to create significant savings for the state. A student not taking dual credit courses in high school would likely be taking the courses in a college setting after graduation, at a higher cost to the state and to the student. Taking college courses in high school accelerates college completion and the support provided by the classroom teacher increases success. For most dual-credit courses in Lubbock ISD, students are taking the course for credit toward their high school graduation requirements simultaneously with their dual credit.