



# Course Access Program Act

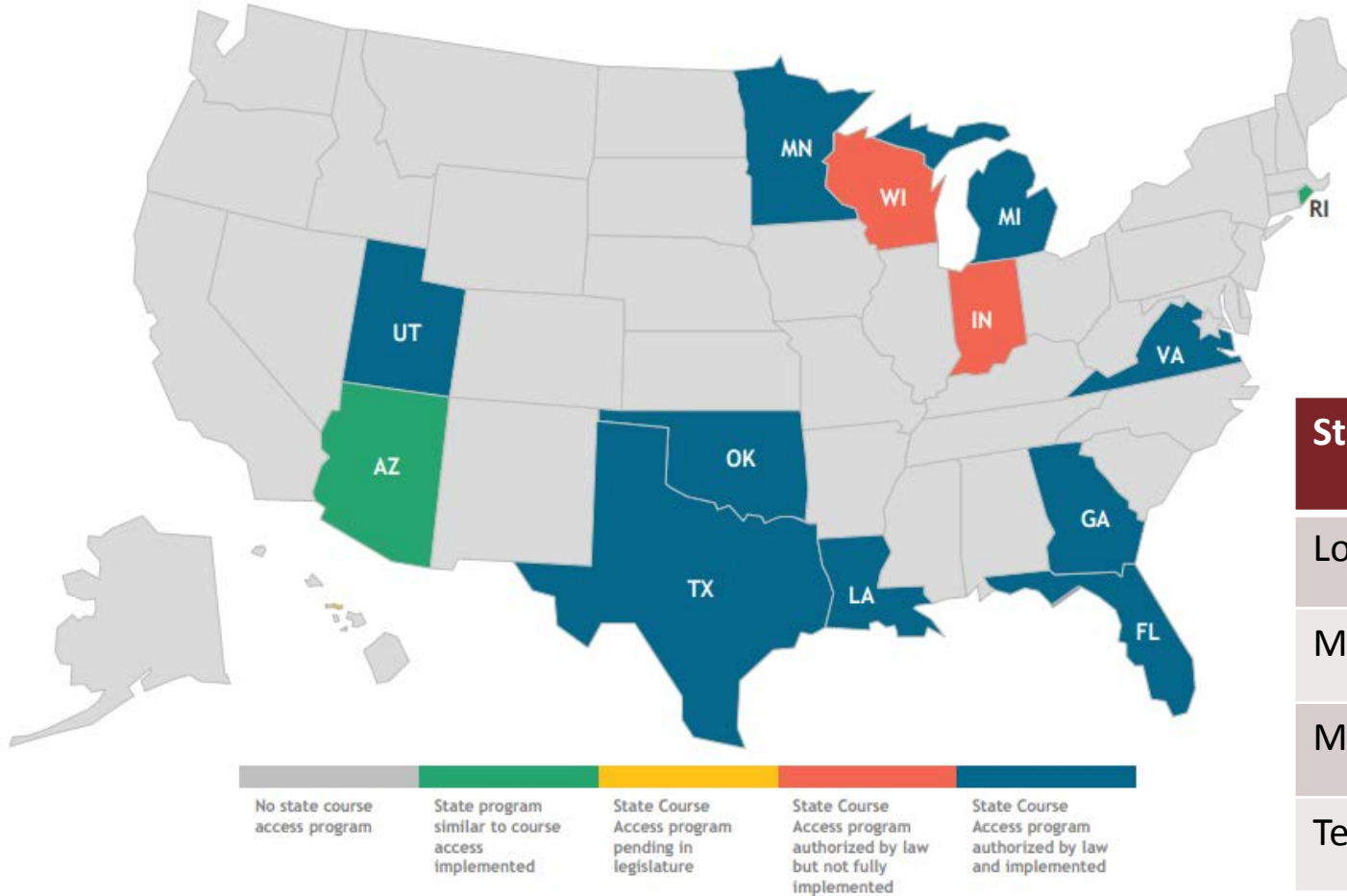


# Legislative History

# Course Access Program Act

- Legislation establishing the course access program was first passed in 2016, sponsored by Sen. Gresham and Rep. Kane.
- Course access is a school choice program that gives students across the state the same access to certain “course access courses” that may not otherwise be available. Course access courses could be delivered in online, blended, or face-to-face environments.
- During the 2018 legislative session, the original legislation was significantly updated resulting in Public Chapter 784.

# Other States



State	# of students enrolled
Louisiana	27,050
Michigan	76,000
Minnesota	11,557
Texas	5,708

- *Excel in Ed, 2018*

- *Education Next, 2015*

# Basic Components

- Allows local education agencies (LEAs) to partner with various course providers to expand course offerings for students.
- Establishes process for determining student eligibility requirements and framework for provider and course approval.
- Grants authority for setting expectations of quality and for monitoring providers and course offerings.

# Roles and Responsibilities

- State Board
  - Approve and monitor all providers and courses offered
  - Broad discretion to develop additional requirements
- Department
  - Establish timeline and guidelines for provider and course approval
  - Post course access course catalog on website
  - Collect and generate reports for monitoring
  - Provide technical assistance to LEAs and providers
- LEAs
  - Develop and enter into agreements with providers
  - Establish local policy for student eligibility and course offerings
  - Communicate with students and parents about program options

# Definitions

- **Home LEA:** the LEA or the charter school in which the student is enrolled full-time
- **Host LEA:** an LEA or a charter school offering course access program courses through an approved course provider to eligible students
- **Course Provider:** a nonprofit entity, LEA, charter school or charter management organization, institution of higher education, or state agency, that has been approved by the State Board to offer individual courses

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**TN**

# **Student Eligibility and Participation**

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# Student Eligibility

- A student may enroll in up to two (2) course access program courses, for which the home LEA will pay all required tuition and fees associated with the course
  - If a student requests to enroll in additional course access program courses, then the student would be responsible for all required tuition and fees associated with the course
  - LEAs must establish a denial and appeal process
- An eligible student may enroll in courses if:
  - the student meets all prerequisites for the course
  - the student is unable to enroll in a comparable course at the student's school
- Eligibility and accessibility for course access program courses must be made available for students with disabilities.



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**Provider Eligibility,  
Approval, and  
Participation**

# Provider Eligibility


- To be approved as a course provider, a provider will submit an application to the Department that includes:
  - An assurance that the provider complies with all federal and state laws that prohibit discrimination and that ensure student data privacy;
  - Evidence of financial viability; and
  - An assurance that the provider will comply with:
    - Applicable virtual learning requirements (if offering virtual learning courses),
    - Class size requirements,
    - Instructional and planning time requirements, and
    - Teacher licensure and other qualifications to teach established by the State Board.

# Provider Approval Process


Provider submits application to department of education based on guidance.



Department reviews the provider application and recommends an approval status to the State Board.



State Board makes final decision on provider approval. This decision is final and not subject to appeal.



Approved providers are listed in the course access catalog, published by the department, so that LEAs may establish partnerships.

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**TN**

**Course Approval**


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# Course Approval Process


Host LEA submits courses to department of education based on guidance.



Department reviews the courses and recommends an approval status to the State Board.



State Board makes final decision on course approval.



Approved courses are listed in the course access catalog, published by the department, so that students may select courses.

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# **Questions and Considerations**

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# Items for consideration

- Will providers offer courses in subjects that have an EOC or TNReady assessment?
- What guidelines should the department include in its rubric for LEAs to review courses?
- How will course access courses fit into the overall student schedule?
- What additional student eligibility criteria should be established?
- How much oversight or autonomy should LEAs have in establishing partnerships?



# Items for Considerations

- How will funds flow between Home LEAs and Host LEAs?
- What would be a fair and reasonable price for a course offered through this program?
- How will the State Board structure the timeline for approvals and course enrollment?
- Should there be other limitations on the types of courses offered?



Department of  
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