
SENATE BILL 5080

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Dammeier, Rolfes, Fain, Frockt, Litzow, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/13/15. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to dual credit options; amending RCW 28A.320.196,
2 28A.600.290, and 28B.15.821; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that Washington has
6 been a front-runner in dual credit innovation through the
7 establishment of the running start and college in the high school
8 programs, and has continued to expand student choices in dual credit
9 programs.

10 In Washington, a range of dual credit or dual enrollment programs
11 are available to students. Dual credit programs, such as running
12 start, college in the high school, tech prep (course completion
13 options), and AP and international baccalaureate and Cambridge
14 (standardized exam options) offer academically prepared students the
15 opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school.
16 Students who participate in these programs achieve improved high
17 school graduation rates and are more likely to continue on to college
18 and complete a degree. In addition, dual credit and dual enrollment
19 programs support students' individual college and career pathways.

20 The legislature further finds that through the development and
21 implementation of the 2013 roadmap the student achievement council

1 has identified key barriers that limit access to dual credit
2 programs, particularly for low-income students. Removing these
3 barriers is a critical step toward achieving the state educational
4 attainment goals outlined in the roadmap.

5 The legislature recognizes that the decision to enroll in a dual
6 credit program should be made by the student and the student's
7 parents or guardians, in consultation with counselors or academic
8 advisors, and based on the academic, cultural, and developmental
9 needs and college and career goals of the student. The decision to
10 choose one dual credit option over another should not be based on the
11 difference in the costs of one option over another.

12 In the college in the high school program, credit is awarded
13 based on successful course completion and ability to pay tuition and
14 fees. Under the current college in the high school system, some
15 students may successfully complete the course but do not receive
16 credit because they are unable to pay.

17 Students in the running start program face a different but
18 equally challenging situation. Students in the running start program
19 do not receive funding for books and transportation costs. These
20 financial barriers decrease opportunities for lower income students
21 to benefit from dual credit programs.

22 Therefore, the legislature intends to increase opportunities for
23 academically prepared high school students to earn up to two years of
24 college credit through dual credit programs, and to reduce
25 disparities in access to, and completion of, these programs. This act
26 provides a new funding model to eliminate tuition in the college in
27 the high school program, and provides flexibility in the academic
28 acceleration incentive program to assist students with transportation
29 and book expenses associated with the running start program. It is
30 the intent of the legislature, once this new funding model is enacted
31 and operational, to establish a distinction between the college in
32 the high school program as a program occurring in high schools and
33 the running start program as a program occurring on a college
34 campus.

35 The legislature finds that dual credit opportunities are a
36 valuable means of supporting students on their way to successful
37 completion of college and career pathways. The legislature seeks
38 additional recommendations to mitigate financial and other barriers
39 for students enrolled in the running start program, and dual credit
40 programs based on standardized exams.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.320.196 and 2013 c 184 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) Subject to funds appropriated specifically for this purpose,
4 the academic acceleration incentive program is established as
5 provided in this section. The intent of the legislature is that the
6 funds awarded under the program be used to support teacher training,
7 curriculum, technology, examination fees, textbook fees, and other
8 costs associated with offering dual credit courses to high school
9 students, including transportation for running start students to and
10 from the institution of higher education as defined in RCW
11 28B.10.016.

12 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
13 allocate half of the funds appropriated for the purposes of this
14 section on a competitive basis to provide one-time grants for high
15 schools to expand the availability of dual credit courses. To be
16 eligible for a grant, a school district must have adopted an academic
17 acceleration policy as provided under RCW 28A.320.195. In making
18 grant awards, the office of the superintendent of public instruction
19 must give priority to grants for high schools with a high proportion
20 of low-income students and high schools seeking to develop new
21 capacity for dual credit courses rather than proposing marginal
22 expansion of current capacity.

23 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
24 allocate half of the funds appropriated for the purposes of this
25 section to school districts as an incentive award for each student
26 who earned dual high school and college credit, as described under
27 subsection (4) of this section, for courses offered by the district's
28 high schools during the previous school year. School districts must
29 distribute the award to the high schools that generated the funds.
30 The award amount for low-income students eligible to participate in
31 the federal free and reduced-price meals program who earn dual
32 credits must be set at one hundred twenty-five percent of the base
33 award for other students. A student who earns more than one dual
34 credit in the same school year counts only once for the purposes of
35 the incentive award.

36 (4) For the purposes of this section, the following students are
37 considered to have earned dual high school and college credit in a
38 course offered by a high school:

39 (a) Students who achieve a score of three or higher on an AP
40 examination;

1 (b) Students who achieve a score of four or higher on an
2 examination of the international baccalaureate diploma programme;

3 (c) Students who successfully complete a Cambridge advanced
4 international certificate of education examination;

5 (d) Students who successfully complete a course through the
6 college in the high school program under RCW 28A.600.290 and are
7 awarded credit by the partnering institution of higher education; and

8 (e) Students who satisfy the dual enrollment and class
9 performance requirements to earn college credit through a tech prep
10 course.

11 (5) If a high school provides access to online courses for
12 students to earn dual high school and college credit at no cost to
13 the student, such a course is considered to be offered by the high
14 school. (~~Students enrolled in the running start program under RCW
15 28A.600.300 do not generate an incentive award under this section.~~)

16 (6) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
17 report to the education policy committees and the fiscal committees
18 of the legislature, by January 1st of each year, information about
19 the demographics of the students earning dual credits in the schools
20 receiving grants under this section for the prior school year.
21 Demographic data shall be disaggregated pursuant to RCW 28A.300.042.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.600.290 and 2012 c 229 s 801 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (~~(1) The superintendent of public instruction, the state board
25 for community and technical colleges, and the public baccalaureate
26 institutions shall jointly develop and each adopt rules governing the
27 college in the high school program. The association of Washington
28 school principals shall be consulted during the rules development.
29 The rules shall be written to encourage the maximum use of the
30 program and may not narrow or limit the enrollment options.~~

31 (2)) Commencing with the 2015-16 school year, in addition to a
32 school district's other general fund allocations, districts shall be
33 allocated an amount per college credit for students enrolled in
34 college in the high school courses under this section as specified in
35 the omnibus appropriations act and adjusted for inflation from the
36 2015-16 school year. The minimum allocation under this section is
37 seventy dollars per quarter credit for credit-bearing postsecondary
38 coursework. The office of the superintendent of public instruction,
39 the student achievement council, the state board for community and

1 technical colleges, and the public baccalaureate institutions shall
2 review funding levels for the program every four years beginning in
3 2017 and recommend changes.

4 (2)(a) For the purposes of funding students enrolled in the
5 college in the high school program in accordance with subsection (1)
6 of this section, college in the high school is defined as a dual
7 credit program located on a high school campus or in a high school
8 environment in which a high school student is able to earn both high
9 school and postsecondary credit by completing postsecondary level
10 courses with a passing grade.

11 (b) Running start is defined as a dual credit program that occurs
12 in a college or university environment, which may include programs
13 located on the campus or teaching center of an institution of higher
14 education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, or offered online by an
15 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, in
16 which a high school student is able to earn both high school and
17 postsecondary credit by completing postsecondary level courses with a
18 passing grade.

19 (3) College in the high school programs may include both academic
20 and career and technical education.

21 (4) College in the high school programs shall each be governed
22 by a local contract between the district and the participating
23 institution of higher education, in compliance with the ((guidelines
24 adopted by the superintendent of public instruction, the state board
25 for community and technical colleges, and the public baccalaureate
26 institutions)) rules adopted by the superintendent of public
27 instruction under this section.

28 ~~((3))~~ (5) The college in the high school program must include
29 the provisions in this subsection.

30 (a) The high school and participating institution of higher
31 education together shall define the criteria for student eligibility.
32 ~~((The institution of higher education may charge tuition fees to~~
33 ~~participating students.))~~

34 ~~((School districts shall report no student for more than one~~
35 ~~full-time equivalent including college in the high school courses))~~
36 In lieu of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and services
37 and activities fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.041, the student's
38 school district shall transmit to the participating institution of
39 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 and 28B.07.020 an
40 amount per credit for each full-time equivalent student. The

1 superintendent of public instruction shall consult with participating
2 institutions of higher education and the state board for community
3 and technical colleges on the calculation and distribution of the
4 funds.

5 (c) The funds received by the participating institution of higher
6 education may not be deemed tuition or operating fees and may be
7 retained by the institution of higher education.

8 (d) Enrollment information on persons registered under this
9 section must be maintained by the institution of higher education
10 separately from other enrollment information and may not be included
11 in official enrollment reports, nor may such persons be considered in
12 any enrollment statistics that would affect higher education
13 budgetary determinations.

14 (e) A school district must grant high school credit to a student
15 enrolled in a program course if the student successfully completes
16 the course. If no comparable course is offered by the school
17 district, the school district superintendent shall determine how many
18 credits to award for the course. The determination shall be made in
19 writing before the student enrolls in the course. The credits shall
20 be applied toward graduation requirements and subject area
21 requirements. Evidence of successful completion of each program
22 course shall be included in the student's secondary school records
23 and transcript.

24 (f) (~~(An)~~) A participating institution of higher education must
25 grant college credit to a student enrolled in a program course if the
26 student successfully completes the course. The college credit shall
27 be applied toward general education requirements or major
28 requirements. (~~((If no comparable course is offered by the college,~~
29 ~~the institution of higher education at which the teacher of the~~
30 ~~program course is employed shall determine how many credits to award~~
31 ~~for the course and whether the course fulfills general education or~~
32 ~~major requirements.))~~) Evidence of successful completion of each
33 program course must be included in the student's college transcript.

34 (g) (~~(Eleventh and twelfth grade)~~) Students in grades nine
35 through twelve or students who have not yet received a high school
36 diploma or its equivalent and are eligible to be in (~~(the eleventh or~~
37 ~~twelfth)~~) grades nine through twelve may participate in the college
38 in the high school program.

39 (h) Participating school districts must provide general
40 information about the college in the high school program to all

1 students in grades (~~ten, eleven, and~~) eight through twelve and to
2 the parents and guardians of those students.

3 ~~((i) Full-time and part-time faculty at institutions of higher
4 education, including adjunct faculty, are eligible to teach program
5 courses.~~

6 ~~(4))~~ (6) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt
7 rules for the administration of this section. The rules shall be
8 jointly developed by the superintendent of public instruction, the
9 state board for community and technical colleges, the student
10 achievement council, and the public baccalaureate institutions. The
11 association of Washington school principals and the private nonprofit
12 colleges in Washington must be consulted during the rules
13 development. The rules must outline quality and eligibility standards
14 that are informed by nationally recognized standards or models. In
15 addition, the rules must encourage the maximum use of the program and
16 may not narrow or limit the enrollment options.

17 (7) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
18 section.

19 (a) "Institution of higher education" has the ~~((meaning))~~
20 definitions in RCW 28B.07.020 and 28B.10.016, and also includes a
21 public tribal college located in Washington and accredited by the
22 Northwest commission on colleges and universities or another
23 accrediting association recognized by the United States department of
24 education.

25 (b) "Program course" means a college course offered in a high
26 school under the college in the high school program.

27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.15.821 and 2009 c 215 s 8 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 As used in this chapter, "dual credit program" means a program,
30 administered by either an institution of higher education or a high
31 school, through which high school students (~~(in the eleventh or
32 twelfth grade))~~) who have not yet received the credits required for
33 the award of a high school diploma apply to a participating
34 institution of higher education to enroll in courses or programs
35 offered by the institution of higher education and simultaneously
36 earn high school and college credit.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) By September 15, 2016, the student
38 achievement council, in collaboration with the state board for

1 community and technical colleges, the office of the superintendent of
2 public instruction, the public baccalaureate institutions, and the
3 private nonprofit colleges, shall make recommendations to the
4 legislature to streamline and improve dual credit programs in
5 Washington with particular attention to increasing participation of
6 students who are low income and/or currently underrepresented in the
7 running start, AP, international baccalaureate, and Cambridge
8 international programs.

9 (2) This section expires January 1, 2017.

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