
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5327

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Wellman, Zeiger, Keiser, Palumbo, Hunt, Rivers, Hawkins, Warnick, Carlyle, Conway, Dhingra, Frockt, Kuderer, Saldaña, and Wagoner; by request of Office of the Governor)

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding career connected learning
2 opportunities; amending RCW 28C.18.060; adding a new section to
3 chapter 28B.10 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.700 RCW; and
4 adding a new chapter to Title 28C RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that in
7 Washington's fast-growing economy local employers need access to a
8 pool of diverse, skilled talent, but too few people are prepared for
9 the career opportunities available. Across the state, there are
10 persistent opportunity gaps in education and employment. Even in
11 today's thriving economy, the path to economic self-sufficiency and
12 fulfillment is difficult for many people.

13 (2) The legislature intends to scale up high-quality career
14 connected learning opportunities that address persistent educational
15 opportunity gaps and meet the talent needs of employers. Through
16 career connected learning opportunities that are available across
17 communities and regions, individuals can advance their academic
18 learning and build awareness of, exposure to, and preparation for,
19 career opportunities.

20 (3) In order to create a statewide, sustainable career connected
21 learning system, three areas must be addressed:

1 (a) Statewide system development through cross-sector
2 coordination;

3 (b) Directing resources to K-12 and higher education partners to
4 support enrollment in career launch and registered apprenticeship
5 programs and other career connected learning opportunities; and

6 (c) Support for regional leadership and coordination to
7 facilitate connections between industry and education, implement
8 career connected learning programs, and help young adults and
9 employers to navigate these opportunities.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) A career connected learning cross-
11 agency work group is established to scale up and expand high-quality
12 career connected learning opportunities, as "career connected
13 learning" is defined in section 5 of this act, in communities across
14 the state.

15 (2) The purpose of the work group is to coordinate agency
16 functions and external partnerships and carry out the duties and
17 responsibilities set forth in section 3 of this act.

18 (3) The governor shall select the chair of the work group.

19 (4) The governor's office may consult or contract with entities
20 with expertise in industry and education partnerships to provide
21 staffing support and guidance on industry talent needs. The
22 governor's office may convene additional ad hoc committees that
23 include industry sector advisory groups and leaders including, but
24 not limited to, high-level representatives from education, industry,
25 philanthropy, as well as students, parents, and community partners.

26 (5) The work group must consist of, but is not limited to,
27 representatives from the following offices and agencies:

28 (a) The department of labor and industries in consultation with
29 the regulatory apprenticeship council under RCW 49.04.010;

30 (b) The department of social and health services, including the
31 division of vocational rehabilitation;

32 (c) The education research and data center at the office of
33 financial management;

34 (d) The employment security department;

35 (e) The office of the superintendent of public instruction;

36 (f) The state board of education;

37 (g) The state board for community and technical colleges;

38 (h) The student achievement council;

39 (i) The workforce training and education coordinating board;

- 1 (j) One representative of the public baccalaureate institutions;
2 (k) One representative of the independent four-year institutions
3 of higher education;
4 (l) The office of the lieutenant governor; and
5 (m) The office of the governor.
6 (6) The office of the governor may establish subcommittees of the
7 work group to plan and execute the duties and responsibilities under
8 section 3 of this act.
9 (7) The work group shall:
10 (a) Meet at least six times during the calendar year; and
11 (b) Report progress to the governor and appropriate committees of
12 the legislature by September 1st annually.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The career connected learning cross-agency
14 work group established in section 2 of this act shall have the
15 following duties and responsibilities:

16 (1) Advance and promote the career connect Washington vision to
17 create a statewide system for career connected learning and the need
18 for joint action as follows:

19 (a) Create, and periodically update, clear guidance for endorsing
20 career launch programs to guide quality assurance for the purpose of
21 expanding enrollments by August 1, 2019. Registered apprenticeships
22 as approved by the Washington apprenticeship and training council at
23 the department of labor and industries are considered endorsed career
24 launch programs;

25 (b) Prioritize activities including coordinating cross-agency and
26 industry sector leadership to advance strategic priorities;

27 (c) Implement a marketing and communications agenda;

28 (d) Mobilize private sector and philanthropic leadership and
29 resources to support system building;

30 (e) Build systemic functions in key agencies and existing
31 systems;

32 (f) Create a statewide inventory that identifies existing
33 support programs to promote equitable participation in career
34 connected learning, including resources for populations to reengage
35 with educational opportunities;

36 (g) Develop web sites and other resources, and coordinate current
37 resources managed by the workforce training and education
38 coordinating board, the student achievement council, and the

1 employment security department, to inform students, employers, and
2 the public about career connected learning opportunities;

3 (h) Develop financial and other support services to increase
4 access and success in career connected learning for students facing
5 barriers or living in underserved communities;

6 (i) Address transfer and articulation issues to ensure career
7 launch program participants receive high school and college credit in
8 programs initiated in K-12 or dropout reengagement programs, or
9 college credit in postsecondary programs and registered
10 apprenticeships, and work to expand the portability of credits to the
11 maximum extent possible;

12 (j) With respect to the portability of credit for the purposes of
13 postsecondary degree attainment, coordinate when appropriate with the
14 complete Washington program;

15 (k) Establish clear targets for equity to guide state data
16 development and action by regional partners related to program design
17 and expansion, including specific equity-focused criteria within
18 grant funding processes and strategies; and

19 (1) Develop data systems and protocols for career connected
20 learning planning and evaluation purposes;

21 (2) By September 1, 2019, and by each September 1st thereafter,
22 make budget recommendations to the office of financial management, to
23 direct resources to education programs for career connected learning
24 as follows:

25 (a) Support the K-12 system and the office of the superintendent
26 of public instruction to increase student participation in career
27 connected learning programs that include career awareness and
28 exploration, career preparation, and career launch;

29 (b) Support expansion of innovative program design in registered
30 apprenticeships, year-round and summer programs, and equitable access
31 to dual credit;

32 (c) Support two-year and four-year institutions of higher
33 education to expand career connected learning enrollments, and
34 specifically:

35 (i) Build capacity at community and technical colleges to support
36 innovative design in career launch and registered apprenticeship
37 programs, as well as program participation by high school graduates
38 or out-of-school youth;

39 (ii) Align the use of work-study to support career launch and
40 registered apprenticeship programs; and

1 (iii) Clarify financial aid eligibility and exclusions from
2 financial aid caps for career launch and registered apprenticeship
3 programs;

4 (d) Promote innovation in equivalency and credentialing within
5 endorsed career launch and registered apprenticeship programs
6 including, but not limited to, offering guidance and technical
7 assistance to school districts and local education agencies to ensure
8 students take advantage of flexibility in the twenty-four-credit
9 diploma and earn high school credit for career launch and registered
10 apprenticeship programs;

11 (e) Expand the number of portable credits and credit for prior
12 learning to ensure that career launch programs transfer for high
13 school or college credit to the maximum extent possible; and

14 (f) Support the registered apprenticeship system and the
15 department of labor and industries to build capacity to expand
16 registered apprenticeship and preapprenticeship programs;

17 (3) Support regional leadership, program intermediaries, and
18 career connected learning navigation and coordination to expand
19 participation in career connected learning opportunities and the
20 implementation of the career connected learning grant program
21 established in section 4 of this act;

22 (4) Support the formation and operation of regional networks in
23 both rural and urban areas to guide career connected learning
24 opportunities that are both tailored to the local needs of students
25 and employers, and designed for portable credentials across education
26 settings and across an industry;

27 (5) Develop a data enclave for career connected learning to
28 measure progress and ensure equity of opportunity for career
29 connected learning, led by the education research and data center at
30 the office of financial management, as follows:

31 (a) Develop program codes for career connected learning
32 opportunities in K-12 and postsecondary education in order to track
33 those programs that are designated as career connected learning
34 programs for each of the three categories set forth in the definition
35 of "career connected learning" in section 5 of this act; and

36 (b) Collect and disaggregate program participation and outcomes
37 data by race, gender, income, rurality, ability, foster youth,
38 homeless youth, English language learner, and other relevant
39 categories.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) Subject to the availability of amounts
2 appropriated for this specific purpose, the career connected learning
3 grant program is established as a competitive grant program to
4 advance the strategic plan in section 3 of this act. The program
5 shall be administered by the employment security department. The
6 governor's office shall work with the employment security department
7 to establish grant criteria and guide the process for selection with
8 consultation from the career connected learning cross-agency work
9 group.

10 (2) The purpose of the career connected learning grant program is
11 to create career connected learning opportunities, including career
12 awareness and exploration, career preparation, and career launch
13 programs, that are both tailored to the local needs of students and
14 employers and designed so that students may receive high school or
15 college credit across industries and regions of the state to the
16 maximum extent possible. The program funds shall be used for two
17 overarching purposes:

18 (a) Support regional career connected learning networks in both
19 rural and urban areas under subsection (3) of this section; and

20 (b) Support career connected learning program intermediaries
21 working within and across regions who partner with multiple
22 employers, labor partners, and educational institutions, work with
23 K-12 and postsecondary career representatives to develop curricula
24 for new and innovative programs, and scale existing career awareness
25 and exploration, career preparation, and endorsed career launch
26 programs.

27 (3) The program administrator shall consult with the governor's
28 office to develop a formal request for proposal for both the regional
29 career connected learning networks and the program intermediaries.

30 (4) (a) Proposals for regional career connected learning networks
31 and intermediaries may be sought from applicants within the
32 geographic areas of the nine educational service districts.
33 Successful applicants shall convene and manage regional, cross-
34 industry networks that will lead to the expansion of career connected
35 learning opportunities.

36 (b) Regional career connected learning network applicants must
37 demonstrate regional knowledge and status as a trusted partner of
38 industry and education stakeholders, a track record of success with
39 career connected learning and aligned initiatives, and a commitment
40 to equity. Regional networks may include, but are not limited to,

1 regional education networks, school districts, educational service
2 districts, higher education institutions, workforce development
3 councils, chambers of commerce, industry associations, joint labor
4 management councils, multiemployer training partnerships, economic
5 development councils, and nonprofit organizations.

6 (5) (a) Funds provided to program intermediaries are for the
7 purpose of creating career connected learning programs through a
8 competitive grant process.

9 (b) Program intermediaries shall work with regional networks,
10 career connected learning coordinators, and industry and education
11 partners to expand the use of current curricula or further develop or
12 build new curricula for career connected learning programs. Curricula
13 built with public funds for career connected learning programs is
14 open source curricula.

15 (c) Eligible program intermediary applicants may include, but are
16 not limited to, new or existing industry associations, joint labor
17 management councils, regional networks, postsecondary education and
18 training institutions working with multiple employer partners, state
19 agencies, and other community-based organizations and expanded
20 learning partners.

21 (6) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
22 specific purpose, the employment security department, as the
23 administrator of the program, has the authority to utilize funds
24 deposited in the career connected learning account for the purposes
25 of the program.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The definitions in this section apply
27 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires
28 otherwise.

29 (1) "Career awareness and exploration" means programs,
30 activities, and events that provide early exposure to jobs and
31 industries. "Career awareness and exploration" are structured
32 programs that include job fairs, guest speakers, job shadows, job
33 site tours, and other similar activities.

34 (2) "Career connected learning" means a learning experience that
35 is integrated with work-related content and skills in the following
36 three categories: (a) Career awareness and exploration; (b) career
37 preparation; and (c) career launch.

38 (3) (a) "Career launch programs" means registered apprenticeships
39 and programs that combine the following three elements:

1 (i) Supervised paid work experience;
2 (ii) Aligned classroom learning to academic and employer
3 standards; and
4 (iii) Culmination in a valuable credential beyond a high school
5 diploma or forty-five college credits towards a two-year or four-year
6 postsecondary credential.

7 (b) "Career launch programs" include the elements in (a) of this
8 subsection and may be achieved through, but are not limited to one or
9 more of the following:

10 (i) A state approved career and technical education sequence of
11 courses or program of study that include requirements in alignment
12 with RCW 28A.700.030;

13 (ii) A qualifying degree or credential earned through a community
14 or technical college or university.

15 (c) "Career launch programs" may be initiated in a secondary
16 education system and completed in a postsecondary education system,
17 or first year of paid employment, as long as all parties jointly plan
18 the program.

19 (d) "Career launch programs" must be endorsed through the process
20 under section 3(1)(a) of this act.

21 (4) "Career preparation programs" means programs that give
22 students hands-on skills and knowledge experience within a particular
23 business, career track, or industry, and help prepare students to
24 work in a professional setting. "Career preparation programs" include
25 career and technical education courses, on-site internships,
26 preapprenticeship programs, and other similar opportunities.

27 (5) "Complete Washington program" means the program established
28 in the 2018 omnibus appropriations act, section 117, chapter 299,
29 Laws of 2018, for the purpose of connecting prior learning with
30 postsecondary degree completion.

31 (6) "Work group" means the career connected learning cross-agency
32 work group established in section 2 of this act.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Where applicable, career awareness and
34 exploration, career connected learning, career launch programs, and
35 career preparation programs are subject to RCW 49.12.121 and
36 49.12.123 regarding employing minors.

37 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** The career connected learning account is
38 created in the state treasury. All receipts from public or private

1 sources provided for the purpose of funding grants under section 4 of
2 this act must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account
3 may be spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account
4 may be used only for career connected learning grants.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
8 specific purpose, the state board for community and technical
9 colleges, the state universities, the regional universities, and the
10 state college shall employ career connected learning coordinators.
11 Career connected learning coordinators shall coordinate with the
12 regional career connected learning networks and program
13 intermediaries under section 4 of this act to expand career connected
14 learning preparation and career launch programs offered at community
15 and technical colleges, and to facilitate transfer of career launch
16 program credits.

17 (2) Career connected learning coordinators shall:

18 (a) Engage faculty and other relevant institution leadership and
19 staff for the purpose of working with regional networks and program
20 intermediaries to create new career preparation and career launch
21 program curricula and opportunities, scaling current programs, and
22 facilitating the endorsement of career launch programs; and

23 (b) Work with appropriate faculty and staff at the state
24 universities, the regional universities, and the state college, and
25 K-12 education representatives, to expand the number of career launch
26 program credits that may be articulated and transferred to
27 postsecondary degree programs.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.700
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) Beginning in the 2019-20 school year, to allow students to
31 engage in learning outside of the school day or in a summer program,
32 school districts shall be funded up to one and two-tenths full-time
33 equivalents for career launch programs, as defined in section 5 of
34 this act.

35 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
36 develop procedures to ensure that school districts do not report any
37 student for more than one and two-tenths full-time equivalent

1 students, combining both the student's high school enrollment and
2 career launch enrollment.

3 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28C.18.060 and 2017 c 39 s 4 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The board, in cooperation with the operating agencies of the
6 state training system and private career schools and colleges, shall:

7 (1) Concentrate its major efforts on planning, coordination
8 evaluation, policy analysis, and recommending improvements to the
9 state's training system;

10 (2) Advocate for the state training system and for meeting the
11 needs of employers and the workforce for workforce education and
12 training;

13 (3) Establish and maintain an inventory of the programs of the
14 state training system, and related state programs, and perform a
15 biennial assessment of the vocational education, training, and adult
16 basic education and literacy needs of the state; identify ongoing and
17 strategic education needs; and assess the extent to which employment,
18 training, vocational and basic education, rehabilitation services,
19 and public assistance services represent a consistent, integrated
20 approach to meet such needs;

21 (4) Develop and maintain a state comprehensive plan for workforce
22 training and education, including but not limited to, goals,
23 objectives, and priorities for the state training system, and review
24 the state training system for consistency with the state
25 comprehensive plan. In developing the state comprehensive plan for
26 workforce training and education, the board shall use, but shall not
27 be limited to: Economic, labor market, and populations trends reports
28 in office of financial management forecasts; joint office of
29 financial management and employment security department labor force,
30 industry employment, and occupational forecasts; the results of
31 scientifically based outcome, net-impact and cost-benefit
32 evaluations; the needs of employers as evidenced in formal employer
33 surveys and other employer input; and the needs of program
34 participants and workers as evidenced in formal surveys and other
35 input from program participants and the labor community;

36 (5) In consultation with the student achievement council, review
37 and make recommendations to the office of financial management and
38 the legislature on operating and capital facilities budget requests
39 for operating agencies of the state training system for purposes of

1 consistency with the state comprehensive plan for workforce training
2 and education;

3 (6) Provide for coordination among the different operating
4 agencies and components of the state training system at the state
5 level and at the regional level;

6 (7) Develop a consistent and reliable database on vocational
7 education enrollments, costs, program activities, and job placements
8 from publicly funded vocational education programs in this state;

9 (8)(a) Establish standards for data collection and maintenance
10 for the operating agencies of the state training system in a format
11 that is accessible to use by the board. The board shall require a
12 minimum of common core data to be collected by each operating agency
13 of the state training system;

14 (b) Develop requirements for minimum common core data in
15 consultation with the office of financial management and the
16 operating agencies of the training system;

17 (9) Establish minimum standards for program evaluation for the
18 operating agencies of the state training system, including, but not
19 limited to, the use of common survey instruments and procedures for
20 measuring perceptions of program participants and employers of
21 program participants, and monitor such program evaluation;

22 (10) Every two years administer scientifically based outcome
23 evaluations of the state training system, including, but not limited
24 to, surveys of program participants, surveys of employers of program
25 participants, and matches with employment security department payroll
26 and wage files. Every five years administer scientifically based net-
27 impact and cost-benefit evaluations of the state training system;

28 (11) In cooperation with the employment security department,
29 provide for the improvement and maintenance of quality and utility in
30 occupational information and forecasts for use in training system
31 planning and evaluation. Improvements shall include, but not be
32 limited to, development of state-based occupational change factors
33 involving input by employers and employees, and delineation of skill
34 and training requirements by education level associated with current
35 and forecasted occupations;

36 (12) Provide for the development of common course description
37 formats, common reporting requirements, and common definitions for
38 operating agencies of the training system;

39 (13) Provide for effectiveness and efficiency reviews of the
40 state training system;

1 (14) In cooperation with the student achievement council,
2 facilitate transfer of credit policies and agreements between
3 institutions of the state training system, and encourage articulation
4 agreements for programs encompassing two years of secondary workforce
5 education and two years of postsecondary workforce education;

6 (15) In cooperation with the student achievement council,
7 facilitate transfer of credit policies and agreements between private
8 training institutions and institutions of the state training system;

9 (16) Develop policy objectives for the workforce innovation and
10 opportunity act, P.L. 113-128, or its successor; develop coordination
11 criteria for activities under the act with related programs and
12 services provided by state and local education and training agencies;
13 and ensure that entrepreneurial training opportunities are available
14 through programs of each local workforce development board in the
15 state;

16 (17) Ensure that the expansion of K-12 and postsecondary
17 opportunities for career connected learning, as defined in section 5
18 of this act, is incorporated into the state plan adopted for the
19 purposes of the Carl D. Perkins career and technical education
20 improvement act, P.L. 109-270;

21 (18) Make recommendations to the commission of student
22 assessment, the state board of education, and the superintendent of
23 public instruction, concerning basic skill competencies and essential
24 core competencies for K-12 education. Basic skills for this purpose
25 shall be reading, writing, computation, speaking, and critical
26 thinking, essential core competencies for this purpose shall be
27 English, math, science/technology, history, geography, and critical
28 thinking. The board shall monitor the development of and provide
29 advice concerning secondary curriculum which integrates vocational
30 and academic education;

31 ((18)) (19) Establish and administer programs for marketing and
32 outreach to businesses and potential program participants;

33 ((19)) (20) Facilitate the location of support services,
34 including but not limited to, child care, financial aid, career
35 counseling, and job placement services, for students and trainees at
36 institutions in the state training system, and advocate for support
37 services for trainees and students in the state training system;

38 ((20)) (21) Facilitate private sector assistance for the state
39 training system, including but not limited to: Financial assistance,
40 rotation of private and public personnel, and vocational counseling;

1 ~~((21))~~ (22) Facilitate the development of programs for school-
2 to-work transition that combine classroom education and on-the-job
3 training, including entrepreneurial education and training, in
4 industries and occupations without a significant number of
5 apprenticeship programs;

6 ~~((22))~~ (23) Include in the planning requirements for local
7 workforce development boards a requirement that the local workforce
8 development boards specify how entrepreneurial training is to be
9 offered through the one-stop system required under the workforce
10 innovation and opportunity act, P.L. 113-128, or its successor;

11 ~~((23))~~ (24) Encourage and assess progress for the equitable
12 representation of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people
13 with disabilities among the students, teachers, and administrators of
14 the state training system. Equitable, for this purpose, shall mean
15 substantially proportional to their percentage of the state
16 population in the geographic area served. This function of the board
17 shall in no way lessen more stringent state or federal requirements
18 for representation of racial and ethnic minorities, women, and people
19 with disabilities;

20 ~~((24))~~ (25) Participate in the planning and policy development
21 of governor set-aside grants under P.L. 97-300, as amended;

22 ~~((25))~~ (26) Administer veterans' programs, licensure of private
23 vocational schools, the job skills program, and the Washington award
24 for vocational excellence;

25 ~~((26))~~ (27) Allocate funding from the state job training trust
26 fund;

27 ~~((27))~~ (28) Work with the director of commerce to ensure
28 coordination among workforce training priorities and economic
29 development and entrepreneurial development efforts, including but
30 not limited to assistance to industry clusters;

31 ~~((28))~~ (29) Conduct research into workforce development
32 programs designed to reduce the high unemployment rate among young
33 people between approximately eighteen and twenty-four years of age.
34 In consultation with the operating agencies, the board shall advise
35 the governor and legislature on policies and programs to alleviate
36 the high unemployment rate among young people. The research shall
37 include disaggregated demographic information and, to the extent
38 possible, income data for adult youth. The research shall also
39 include a comparison of the effectiveness of programs examined as a
40 part of the research conducted in this subsection in relation to the

1 public investment made in these programs in reducing unemployment of
2 young adults. The board shall report to the appropriate committees of
3 the legislature by November 15, 2008, and every two years thereafter.
4 Where possible, the data reported to the legislative committees
5 should be reported in numbers and in percentages;

6 ~~((29))~~ (30) Adopt rules as necessary to implement this chapter.

7 The board may delegate to the director any of the functions of
8 this section.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act
10 constitute a new chapter in Title 28C RCW.

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