
SENATE BILL 5670

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators Hawkins and Randall

1 AN ACT Relating to permitting 10th grade students to participate
2 in running start in online settings; amending RCW 28A.600.320,
3 28A.600.330, and 28A.600.385; and reenacting and amending RCW
4 28A.600.310.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.600.310 and 2019 c 252 s 115 and 2019 c 176 s 2
7 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

8 (1) (a) (~~Eleventh and twelfth~~) Except as provided in (d) of this
9 subsection, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students or students who have
10 not yet received the credits required for the award of a high school
11 diploma and are eligible to be in the (~~eleventh or twelfth~~) 10th,
12 11th, or 12th grades may apply to a participating institution of
13 higher education to enroll in courses or programs offered by the
14 institution of higher education.

15 (b) The course sections and programs offered as running start
16 courses must also be open for registration to matriculated students
17 at the participating institution of higher education and may not be a
18 course consisting solely of high school students offered at a high
19 school campus.

20 (c) A student receiving home-based instruction enrolling in a
21 public high school for the sole purpose of participating in courses

1 or programs offered by institutions of higher education shall not be
2 counted by the school district in any required state or federal
3 accountability reporting if the student's parents or guardians filed
4 a declaration of intent to provide home-based instruction and the
5 student received home-based instruction during the school year before
6 the school year in which the student intends to participate in
7 courses or programs offered by the institution of higher education.
8 Students receiving home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW
9 and students attending private schools approved under chapter 28A.195
10 RCW shall not be required to meet the student learning goals or to
11 learn the state learning standards. However, students are eligible to
12 enroll in courses or programs in participating universities only if
13 the board of directors of the student's school district has decided
14 to participate in the program. Participating institutions of higher
15 education, in consultation with school districts, may establish
16 admission standards for these students. If the institution of higher
17 education accepts a secondary school pupil for enrollment under this
18 section, the institution of higher education shall send written
19 notice to the pupil and the pupil's school district within ten days
20 of acceptance. The notice shall indicate the course and hours of
21 enrollment for that pupil.

22 (d) Tenth grade students may only enroll in online running start
23 courses, defined as courses in which a majority of the course time is
24 spent in a virtual setting or not in person.

25 (2) (a) In lieu of tuition and fees, as defined in RCW 28B.15.020
26 and 28B.15.041:

27 (i) Running start students shall pay to the community or
28 technical college all other mandatory fees as established by each
29 community or technical college and, in addition, the state board for
30 community and technical colleges may authorize a fee of up to (~~ten~~)
31 10 percent of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and
32 28B.15.041; and

33 (ii) All other institutions of higher education operating a
34 running start program may charge running start students a fee of up
35 to (~~ten~~) 10 percent of tuition and fees as defined in RCW
36 28B.15.020 and 28B.15.041 in addition to technology fees.

37 (b) The fees charged under this subsection (2) shall be prorated
38 based on credit load.

39 (c) Students may pay fees under this subsection with advanced
40 college tuition payment program tuition units at a rate set by the

1 advanced college tuition payment program governing body under chapter
2 28B.95 RCW.

3 (3) (a) The institutions of higher education must make available
4 fee waivers for low-income running start students. A student shall be
5 considered low income and eligible for a fee waiver upon proof that
6 the student is currently qualified to receive free or reduced-price
7 lunch. Acceptable documentation of low-income status may also
8 include, but is not limited to, documentation that a student has been
9 deemed eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in the last five
10 years, or other criteria established in the institution's policy.

11 (b) (i) By the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, school
12 districts, upon knowledge of a low-income student's enrollment in
13 running start, must provide documentation of the student's low-income
14 status, under (a) of this subsection, directly to institutions of
15 higher education.

16 (ii) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
17 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
18 instruction, in consultation with the Washington student achievement
19 council, shall develop a centralized process for school districts to
20 provide students' low-income status to institutions of higher
21 education to meet the requirements of (b) (i) of this subsection.

22 (c) Institutions of higher education, in collaboration with
23 relevant student associations, shall aim to have students who can
24 benefit from fee waivers take advantage of these waivers.
25 Institutions shall make every effort to communicate to students and
26 their families the benefits of the waivers and provide assistance to
27 students and their families on how to apply. Information about
28 waivers shall, to the greatest extent possible, be incorporated into
29 financial aid counseling, admission information, and individual
30 billing statements. Institutions also shall, to the greatest extent
31 possible, use all means of communication, including but not limited
32 to websites, online catalogues, admission and registration forms,
33 mass email messaging, social media, and outside marketing to ensure
34 that information about waivers is visible, compelling, and reaches
35 the maximum number of students and families that can benefit.

36 (4) The pupil's school district shall transmit to the institution
37 of higher education an amount per each full-time equivalent college
38 student at statewide uniform rates for vocational and nonvocational
39 students. The superintendent of public instruction shall separately
40 calculate and allocate moneys appropriated for basic education under

1 RCW 28A.150.260 to school districts for purposes of making such
2 payments and for granting school districts seven percent thereof to
3 offset program related costs. The calculations and allocations shall
4 be based upon the estimated statewide annual average per full-time
5 equivalent high school student allocations under RCW 28A.150.260,
6 excluding small high school enhancements, and applicable rules
7 adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW. The superintendent of public
8 instruction, participating institutions of higher education, and the
9 state board for community and technical colleges shall consult on the
10 calculation and distribution of the funds. The funds received by the
11 institution of higher education from the school district shall not be
12 deemed tuition or operating fees and may be retained by the
13 institution of higher education. A student enrolled under this
14 subsection shall be counted for the purpose of meeting enrollment
15 targets in accordance with terms and conditions specified in the
16 omnibus appropriations act.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.600.320 and 2009 c 524 s 4 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 A school district shall provide general information about the
20 program to all pupils in grades (~~(ten, eleven, and twelve)~~) nine, 10,
21 11, and 12 and the parents and guardians of those pupils, including
22 information about the opportunity to enroll in the program through
23 online courses available at community and technical colleges and
24 other state institutions of higher education and including the
25 college high school diploma options under RCW 28B.50.535. To assist
26 the district in planning, a pupil shall inform the district of the
27 pupil's intent to enroll in courses at an institution of higher
28 education for credit. Students are responsible for applying for
29 admission to the institution of higher education.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.600.330 and 1994 c 205 s 4 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 A pupil who enrolls in an institution of higher education in
33 grade (~~(eleven)~~) 10 may not enroll in postsecondary courses under RCW
34 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.390 for high school credit and
35 postsecondary credit for more than the equivalent of the coursework
36 for (~~(two)~~) three academic years. A pupil who first enrolls in an
37 institution of higher education in grade 11 may not enroll in
38 postsecondary courses under this section for high school credit and

1 postsecondary credit for more than the equivalent of the coursework
2 for two academic years. A pupil who first enrolls in an institution
3 of higher education in grade (~~(twelve)~~) 12 may not enroll in
4 postsecondary courses under this section for high school credit and
5 postsecondary credit for more than the equivalent of the coursework
6 for one academic year.

7 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.600.385 and 1998 c 63 s 2 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) School districts in Washington and community colleges in
10 Oregon and Idaho may enter into cooperative agreements under chapter
11 39.34 RCW for the purpose of allowing (~~(eleventh and twelfth)~~) 10th,
12 11th, and 12th grade students who are enrolled in the school
13 districts to earn high school and college credit concurrently.

14 (2) Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, if a
15 school district exercises the authority granted in subsection (1) of
16 this section, the provisions of RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.360
17 and 28A.600.380 through 28A.600.400 shall apply to the agreements.

18 (3) A school district may enter an agreement in which the
19 community college agrees to accept an amount less than the statewide
20 uniform rate under RCW 28A.600.310(~~(+2)~~) (4) if the community
21 college does not charge participating students tuition and fees. A
22 school district may not pay a per-credit rate in excess of the
23 statewide uniform rate under RCW 28A.600.310(~~(+2)~~) (4).

24 (4) To the extent feasible, the agreements shall permit
25 participating students to attend the community college without paying
26 any tuition and fees. The agreements shall not permit the community
27 college to charge participating students nonresident tuition and fee
28 rates.

29 (5) The agreements shall ensure that participating students are
30 permitted to enroll only in courses that are transferable to one or
31 more institutions of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

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