

Title	Strategic Action Plan – Dual Credit
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Synopsis:	Members will consider proposed draft legislation to streamline and expand dual credit opportunities for Washington high school students.
Guiding questions:	Does the proposed legislative language advance opportunities for students to earn dual credit in Washington State?
Possible council action:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
Documents and attachments:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brief/Report <input type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint <input type="checkbox"/> Third-party materials <input type="checkbox"/> Other

BILL REQUEST - CODE REVISER'S OFFICE

BILL REQ. #: Z-0106.1/15

ATTY/TYPIST: SCG:eab

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: Streamlining and expanding dual credit options.

AN ACT Relating to dual credit options; amending RCW 28A.600.290, 28A.600.300, and 28B.15.821; adding a new section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.600 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that, in order to prepare students for postsecondary success, postsecondary college and career pathways must be aligned and integrated.

The legislature also finds that the opportunity for high school students to earn college credits increases the likelihood that a student will enter college after high school graduation, and decreases the time the student requires to earn a postsecondary credential.

The legislature further finds that there are disparities in access to current dual credit opportunities. Low-income students and students of color are underrepresented in dual credit programs.

The legislature recognizes the unique settings and demographics of each school district and institution of higher education and intends to provide a range of dual credit opportunities that afford all academically prepared students options for access and successful completion of dual credit coursework.

The legislature recognizes that the decision to enroll in a dual credit program should be made by the student and his or her parents or guardians, in consultation with counselors or academic advisors, and based on the academic, cultural, and developmental needs of the student. The decision to choose one dual credit option over another should be a cost-neutral decision for the student and family.

Therefore, the legislature intends to increase opportunities for academically prepared high school students to earn college credits through dual credit programs, and to reduce disparities in access to, and completion of, these programs.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150 RCW to read as follows:

(1) Beginning with the 2015-16 school year and thereafter, in addition to the district state allocation provided in RCW 28A.150.260, students enrolled in college in the high school courses under RCW 28A.600.290 must be funded at an enhanced rate of the uniform statewide nonvocational and vocational rates allocation provided in RCW 28A.600.310(4) as follows: The uniform statewide nonvocational and vocational rates, multiplied by full-time equivalent enrollment in dual credit courses, multiplied by three-tenths.

(2) For college in the high school courses, an amount shall be transferred to the institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, as described in RCW 28A.600.290.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600 RCW to read as follows:

(1) The program established in this section and RCW 28A.600.290 shall be known as the college in the high school program.

(2) College in the high school is a dual credit program located on a high school campus or in a high school environment in which a high school student is able to earn both high school and postsecondary credit by completing postsecondary-level courses with a passing grade.

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

Sec. 4. RCW 28A.600.290 and 2012 c 229 s 801 are each amended to read as follows:

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

(2) College in the high school programs shall each be governed by a local contract between the district and the institution of higher education, in compliance with the guidelines adopted by the superintendent of public instruction,

the state board for community and technical colleges, and the public baccalaureate institutions.

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

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

(b) (~~School districts shall report no student for more than one full-time equivalent including college in the high school courses.~~) In lieu of tuition and fees, as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and services and activities fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.041, the pupil's school district shall transmit to the institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 an amount per each full-time equivalent college student at statewide uniform rates for vocational and nonvocational students. The superintendent of public instruction shall separately calculate and allocate moneys for basic education under RCW 28A.150.260 to school districts for purposes of making the payments and for granting school districts thirty percent thereof to offset program-related costs. The calculations and allocations must be based upon the running start average per full-time equivalent high school student allocations under RCW 28A.150.260(4)(d), excluding small high school enhancements, and applicable rules. The superintendent of public instruction, participating institutions of higher education, and the state board for community and technical colleges shall consult on the calculation and distribution of the funds.

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

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

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

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

(g) (~~(Eleventh and twelfth grade)~~) Students in grades nine through twelve or students who have not yet received a high school diploma or its equivalent and are eligible to be in the

~~((eleventh or twelfth))~~ grades nine through twelve may participate in the college in the high school program.

(h) Participating school districts must provide general information about the college in the high school program to all students in grades eight, nine, ten, eleven, and twelve and to the parents and guardians of those students.

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

(4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this section.

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

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

Sec. 5. RCW 28A.600.300 and 2009 c 450 s 7 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The program established in this section through RCW 28A.600.400 shall be known as the running start program.

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

(3) For the purposes of RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.400, "participating institution of higher education" or "institution of higher education" means:

(a) A community or technical college as defined in RCW 28B.50.030;

(b) A public tribal college located in Washington and accredited by the northwest commission on colleges and universities or another accrediting association recognized by the United States department of education; and

(c) Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, Washington State University, and The Evergreen State College, if the institution's governing board decides to participate in the program in RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.400.

Sec. 6. RCW 28B.15.821 and 2009 c 215 s 8 are each amended to read as follows:

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

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