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HOUSE BILL 2582

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By Representatives Upthegrove, Hunter, Appleton, Hasegawa, Quall, Clibborn, Simpson, Green, Ormsby, Kenney, Hudgins and Kagi

Read first time 01/10/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to high school completion programs; amending RCW  
2 28B.50.535, 28A.230.120, 28A.655.061, 28B.15.520, and 28B.15.067;  
3 adding a new section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; adding a new section to  
4 chapter 28A.600 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the goal of  
7 Washington's education reform is for all students to meet rigorous  
8 academic standards so that they are prepared for success in college,  
9 work, and life. Educators know that not all students learn at the same  
10 rate or in the same way. Some students will take longer to meet the  
11 state's standards for high school graduation. Older students who  
12 cannot graduate with their peers need an appropriate learning  
13 environment and flexible programming that enables them simultaneously  
14 to earn a diploma, work, and pursue other training options. Providing  
15 learning options in locations in addition to high schools will  
16 encourage older students to complete their diplomas. The legislature  
17 further finds that the state's commitment to providing a basic  
18 education for all public school students under the age of twenty-one  
19 should continue until a student earns a diploma. Therefore the

1 legislature intends to expand high school completion programs at  
2 community and technical colleges for older students who have not yet  
3 received a diploma but are eligible for state basic education support.

4 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.50.535 and 1991 c 238 s 58 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 A community or technical college may issue a high school diploma or  
7 certificate, subject to rules (~~(and regulations promulgated)~~) adopted  
8 by the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of  
9 education.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50 RCW  
11 to read as follows:

12 (1) In accordance with this section, each community or technical  
13 college shall make available courses or a program of study designed to  
14 enable students under the age of twenty-one who have completed all  
15 state high school graduation requirements except the certificate of  
16 academic achievement or certificate of individual achievement to  
17 complete their high school education and obtain a high school diploma.

18 (a) Colleges may make courses or programs under this section  
19 available by entering into contracts with local school districts to  
20 deliver the courses or programs at locations other than the high school  
21 campus. Colleges that offer courses or programs under contract shall  
22 be reimbursed for each enrolled eligible student as provided in the  
23 contract, and the high school diploma shall be issued by the local  
24 school district;

25 (b) Colleges may deliver courses or programs under this section  
26 directly. Colleges that deliver courses or programs directly shall be  
27 reimbursed for each enrolled eligible student as provided in section 4  
28 of this act, and the high school diploma shall be issued by the  
29 college; or

30 (c) Colleges may make courses or programs under this section  
31 available through a combination of contracts with local school  
32 districts and direct service delivery.

33 (2) Regardless of the service delivery method chosen, colleges  
34 shall ensure that all eligible students have an opportunity to enroll  
35 in a course or program under this section.

1 (3) Colleges shall not require students enrolled under this section  
2 to pay tuition or services and activities fees, however this waiver of  
3 tuition and services and activities fees shall be in effect only for  
4 those courses that lead to a high school diploma.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) For purposes of this section and section 3 of this act,  
8 "eligible student" means a student who has completed all minimum state  
9 high school graduation requirements except the certificate of academic  
10 achievement under RCW 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual  
11 achievement under RCW 28A.155.045, and who is less than age twenty-one  
12 as of September 1st of the academic year the student enrolls at a  
13 community and technical college under this section.

14 (2) An eligible student may enroll in courses or a program of study  
15 made available by a community or technical college under section 3 of  
16 this act for the purpose of obtaining a high school diploma.

17 (3) For eligible students in courses or programs delivered directly  
18 by the community or technical college under section 3 of this act and  
19 only for enrollment in courses that lead to a high school diploma, the  
20 superintendent of public instruction shall transmit to the college an  
21 amount per each full-time equivalent college student at statewide  
22 uniform rates. The amount shall be the sum of (a), (b), and (c) of  
23 this subsection, as applicable.

24 (a) The superintendent shall separately calculate and allocate  
25 moneys appropriated for basic education under RCW 28A.150.260 for  
26 purposes of making payments under this section. The calculations and  
27 allocations shall be based upon the estimated statewide annual average  
28 per full-time equivalent high school student allocations under RCW  
29 28A.150.260, excluding small high school enhancements, and applicable  
30 rules adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW.

31 (b) The superintendent shall allocate an amount equal to the per  
32 funded student state allocation for the learning assistance program  
33 under chapter 28A.165 RCW for each full-time equivalent college student  
34 or a pro rata amount for less than full-time enrollment.

35 (c) For eligible students who meet eligibility criteria for the  
36 state transitional bilingual instruction program under chapter 28A.180

1 RCW, the superintendent shall allocate an amount equal to the per  
2 student state allocation for the transitional bilingual instruction  
3 program or a pro rata amount for less than full-time enrollment.

4 (4) The superintendent may adopt rules establishing enrollment  
5 reporting, recordkeeping, and accounting requirements necessary to  
6 ensure accountability for the use of basic education, learning  
7 assistance, and transitional bilingual program funds under this  
8 section.

9 (5) All school districts shall provide information about the high  
10 school completion option under section 3 of this act to students in  
11 grades ten, eleven, and twelve and the parents or guardians of those  
12 students.

13 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.230.120 and 2003 c 234 s 1 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 (1) School districts shall issue diplomas to students signifying  
16 graduation from high school upon the students' satisfactory completion  
17 of all local and state graduation requirements. Districts shall grant  
18 students the option of receiving a final transcript in addition to the  
19 regular diploma. Students who satisfactorily complete all local and  
20 state graduation requirements except the certificate of academic  
21 achievement under RCW 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual  
22 achievement under RCW 28A.155.045 may participate in high school  
23 graduation ceremonies.

24 (2) School districts or schools of attendance shall establish  
25 policies and procedures to notify senior students of the transcript  
26 option and shall direct students to indicate their decisions in a  
27 timely manner. School districts shall make appropriate provisions to  
28 assure that students who choose to receive a copy of their final  
29 transcript shall receive such transcript after graduation.

30 (3)(a) A school district may issue a high school diploma to a  
31 person who:

32 (i) Is an honorably discharged member of the armed forces of the  
33 United States;

34 (ii) Was scheduled to graduate from high school in the years 1940  
35 through 1955; and

36 (iii) Left high school before graduation to serve in World War II  
37 or the Korean conflict.

1 (b) A school district may issue a diploma to or on behalf of a  
2 person otherwise eligible under (a) of this subsection notwithstanding  
3 the fact that the person holds a high school equivalency certification  
4 or is deceased.

5 (c) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt a form for  
6 a diploma application to be used by a veteran or a person acting on  
7 behalf of a deceased veteran under this subsection (3). The  
8 superintendent of public instruction shall specify what constitutes  
9 acceptable evidence of eligibility for a diploma.

10 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.655.061 and 2004 c 19 s 101 are each amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (1) The high school assessment system shall include but need not be  
13 limited to the Washington assessment of student learning, opportunities  
14 for a student to retake the content areas of the assessment in which  
15 the student was not successful, and if approved by the legislature  
16 pursuant to subsection (11) of this section, one or more objective  
17 alternative assessments for a student to demonstrate achievement of  
18 state academic standards. The objective alternative assessments for  
19 each content area shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and  
20 knowledge that the student must demonstrate on the Washington  
21 assessment of student learning for each content area.

22 (2) Subject to the conditions in this section, a certificate of  
23 academic achievement shall be obtained by most students at about the  
24 age of sixteen, and is evidence that the students have successfully met  
25 the state standard in the content areas included in the certificate.  
26 With the exception of students satisfying the provisions of RCW  
27 28A.155.045, acquisition of the certificate is required for graduation  
28 from a public high school but is not the only requirement for  
29 graduation.

30 (3) Beginning with the graduating class of 2008, with the exception  
31 of students satisfying the provisions of RCW 28A.155.045, a student who  
32 meets the state standards on the reading, writing, and mathematics  
33 content areas of the high school Washington assessment of student  
34 learning shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. If a  
35 student does not successfully meet the state standards in one or more  
36 content areas required for the certificate of academic achievement,  
37 then the student may retake the assessment in the content area up to

1 four times at no cost to the student. If the student successfully  
2 meets the state standards on a retake of the assessment then the  
3 student shall earn a certificate of academic achievement. Once  
4 objective alternative assessments are authorized pursuant to subsection  
5 (11) of this section, a student may use the objective alternative  
6 assessments to demonstrate that the student successfully meets the  
7 state standards for that content area if the student has retaken the  
8 Washington assessment of student learning at least once. If the  
9 student successfully meets the state standards on the objective  
10 alternative assessments then the student shall earn a certificate of  
11 academic achievement. The student's transcript shall note whether the  
12 certificate of academic achievement was acquired by means of the  
13 Washington assessment of student learning or by an alternative  
14 assessment.

15 (4) Beginning with the graduating class of 2010, a student must  
16 meet the state standards in science in addition to the other content  
17 areas required under subsection (3) of this section on the Washington  
18 assessment of student learning or the objective alternative assessments  
19 in order to earn a certificate of academic achievement.

20 (5) The state board of education may not require the acquisition of  
21 the certificate of academic achievement for students in home-based  
22 instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW, for students enrolled in private  
23 schools under chapter 28A.195 RCW, or for students satisfying the  
24 provisions of RCW 28A.155.045.

25 (6) A student may retain and use the highest result from each  
26 successfully completed content area of the high school assessment.

27 (7) Beginning with the graduating class of 2006, the highest scale  
28 score and level achieved in each content area on the high school  
29 Washington assessment of student learning shall be displayed on a  
30 student's transcript. In addition, beginning with the graduating class  
31 of 2008, each student shall receive a scholar's designation on his or  
32 her transcript for each content area in which the student achieves  
33 level four the first time the student takes that content area  
34 assessment.

35 (8) Beginning in 2006, school districts must make available to  
36 students the following options:

37 (a) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to

1 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the  
2 state standards if the student is enrolled in a public school; or

3 (b) To retake the Washington assessment of student learning up to  
4 four times in the content areas in which the student did not meet the  
5 state standards if the student is enrolled in a high school completion  
6 program at a community or technical college. The superintendent of  
7 public instruction and the state board for community and technical  
8 colleges shall jointly identify means by which students in these  
9 programs can be assessed.

10 (9) Students who achieve the standard in a content area of the high  
11 school assessment but who wish to improve their results shall pay for  
12 retaking the assessment, using a uniform cost determined by the  
13 superintendent of public instruction.

14 (10) Subject to available funding, the superintendent shall pilot  
15 opportunities for retaking the high school assessment beginning in the  
16 2004-05 school year. Beginning no later than September 2006,  
17 opportunities to retake the assessment at least twice a year shall be  
18 available to each school district.

19 (11) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
20 develop options for implementing objective alternative assessments,  
21 which may include an appeals process, for students to demonstrate  
22 achievement of the state academic standards. The objective alternative  
23 assessments shall be comparable in rigor to the skills and knowledge  
24 that the student must demonstrate on the Washington assessment of  
25 student learning and be objective in its determination of student  
26 achievement of the state standards. Before any objective alternative  
27 assessments are used by a student to demonstrate that the student has  
28 met the state standards in a content area required to obtain a  
29 certificate, the legislature shall formally approve the use of any  
30 objective alternative assessments through the omnibus appropriations  
31 act or by statute or concurrent resolution.

32 (12) By December 15, 2004, the house of representatives and senate  
33 education committees shall obtain information and conclusions from  
34 recognized, independent, national assessment experts regarding the  
35 validity and reliability of the high school Washington assessment of  
36 student learning for making individual student high school graduation  
37 determinations.

1 (13) To help assure continued progress in academic achievement as  
2 a foundation for high school graduation and to assure that students are  
3 on track for high school graduation, each school district shall prepare  
4 plans for students as provided in this subsection (13).

5 (a) Student learning plans are required for eighth through twelfth  
6 grade students who were not successful on any or all of the content  
7 areas of the Washington assessment for student learning during the  
8 previous school year. The plan shall include the courses,  
9 competencies, and other steps needed to be taken by the student to meet  
10 state academic standards and stay on track for graduation. If  
11 applicable, the plan shall also include the high school completion  
12 option created under section 3 of this act. This requirement shall be  
13 phased in as follows:

14 (i) Beginning no later than the 2004-05 school year ninth grade  
15 students as described in this subsection (13)(a) shall have a plan.

16 (ii) Beginning no later than the 2005-06 school year and every year  
17 thereafter eighth grade students as described in this subsection  
18 (13)(a) shall have a plan.

19 (iii) The parent or guardian shall be notified, preferably through  
20 a parent conference, of the student's results on the Washington  
21 assessment of student learning, actions the school intends to take to  
22 improve the student's skills in any content area in which the student  
23 was unsuccessful, strategies to help them improve their student's  
24 skills, and the content of the student's plan.

25 (iv) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the  
26 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the  
27 plan made as necessary.

28 (b) Beginning with the 2005-06 school year and every year  
29 thereafter, all fifth grade students who were not successful in one or  
30 more of the content areas of the fourth grade Washington assessment of  
31 student learning shall have a student learning plan.

32 (i) The parent or guardian of a student described in this  
33 subsection (13)(b) shall be notified, preferably through a parent  
34 conference, of the student's results on the Washington assessment of  
35 student learning, actions the school intends to take to improve the  
36 student's skills in any content area in which the student was  
37 unsuccessful, and provide strategies to help them improve their  
38 student's skills.



1 (ii) Progress made on the student plan shall be reported to the  
2 student's parents or guardian at least annually and adjustments to the  
3 plan made as necessary.

4 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28B.15.520 and 1993 sp.s. c 18 s 16 are each amended  
5 to read as follows:

6 Subject to the limitations of RCW 28B.15.910, the governing boards  
7 of the community colleges may:

8 (1) Waive all or a portion of tuition fees and services and  
9 activities fees for:

10 (a) Students nineteen years of age or older who are eligible for  
11 resident tuition and fee rates as defined in RCW 28B.15.012 through  
12 28B.15.015 (~~and~~), who enroll in a course of study or program which  
13 will enable them to finish their high school education and obtain a  
14 high school diploma or certificate, but who are not eligible students  
15 as defined by section 4 of this act; and

16 (b) Children of any law enforcement officer or fire fighter who  
17 lost his or her life or became totally disabled in the line of duty  
18 while employed by any public law enforcement agency or full time or  
19 volunteer fire department in this state: PROVIDED, That such persons  
20 may receive the waiver only if they begin their course of study at a  
21 community college within ten years of their graduation from high  
22 school;

23 (2) Waive all or a portion of the nonresident tuition fees  
24 differential for:

25 (a) Nonresident students enrolled in a community college course of  
26 study or program which will enable them to finish their high school  
27 education and obtain a high school diploma or certificate but who are  
28 not eligible students as defined by section 4 of this act. The waiver  
29 shall be in effect only for those courses which lead to a high school  
30 diploma or certificate; and

31 (b) Up to forty percent of the students enrolled in the regional  
32 education program for deaf students, subject to federal funding of such  
33 program.

34 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28B.15.067 and 2003 c 232 s 4 are each amended to read  
35 as follows:

1 (1) Tuition fees shall be established under the provisions of this  
2 chapter.

3 (2) Beginning with the 2003-04 academic year and ending with the  
4 2008-09 academic year, reductions or increases in full-time tuition  
5 fees for resident undergraduates shall be as provided in the omnibus  
6 appropriations act.

7 (3) Beginning with the 2003-04 academic year and ending with the  
8 2008-09 academic year, the governing boards of the state universities,  
9 the regional universities, The Evergreen State College, and the state  
10 board for community and technical colleges may reduce or increase full-  
11 time tuition fees for all students other than resident undergraduates,  
12 including summer school students and students in other self-supporting  
13 degree programs. Percentage increases in full-time tuition fees may  
14 exceed the fiscal growth factor. Reductions or increases may be made  
15 for all or portions of an institution's programs, campuses, courses, or  
16 students.

17 (4) Academic year tuition for full-time students at the state's  
18 institutions of higher education beginning with 2009-10, other than  
19 summer term, shall be as charged during the 2008-09 academic year  
20 unless different rates are adopted by the legislature.

21 (5) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall not apply  
22 to high school students enrolling in participating institutions of  
23 higher education under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400.

24 (6) The tuition fees established under this chapter shall not apply  
25 to eligible students enrolling in a community or technical college  
26 under section 3 of this act for the purpose of obtaining a high school  
27 diploma.

28 (7) For the academic years 2003-04 through 2008-09, the University  
29 of Washington shall use an amount equivalent to ten percent of all  
30 revenues received as a result of law school tuition increases beginning  
31 in academic year 2000-01 through academic year 2008-09 to assist needy  
32 low and middle income resident law students.

33 ~~((7))~~ (8) For the academic years 2003-04 through 2008-09,  
34 institutions of higher education shall use an amount equivalent to ten  
35 percent of all revenues received as a result of graduate academic  
36 school tuition increases beginning in academic year 2003-04 through

1 academic year 2008-09 to assist needy low and middle-income resident  
2 graduate academic students.

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