
HOUSE BILL 3129

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Schmick, Anderson, Quall, Simpson, and Ormsby

Read first time 01/22/08. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to support for online learning for high school
2 students to earn college credit; amending RCW 28A.600.320; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that student interest
6 and participation in online learning continues to grow. At the same
7 time, the legislature, business community, and public are encouraging
8 additional programs for high school students to earn college credits.
9 Fortunately for students attending schools in rural areas, the two
10 trends can be combined to provide learning opportunities that are both
11 rigorous and accessible, and in some cases available free to the
12 student. In 2006-07, more than four thousand five hundred students
13 were able to take an online college course through the running start
14 program, which the community and technical college system makes
15 accessible statewide through its WashingtonOnline consortium. A more
16 concerted effort is needed to make schools and students aware of these
17 opportunities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
4 compile information about online learning programs for high school
5 students to earn college credit and place the information prominently
6 on its web site. The web site shall include assistance and guidance
7 for students, teachers, and counselors in selecting and considering
8 online learning programs. The office shall use the expertise of the
9 digital learning commons and WashingtonOnline to provide assistance and
10 suggest resources.

11 (2) High schools shall ensure that teachers and counselors have
12 information about online learning programs for high school students to
13 earn college credit and are able to assist parents and students in
14 accessing the information. High schools shall ensure that parents and
15 students have opportunities to learn about online learning programs
16 under this section.

17 (3) For the purposes of this section, online learning programs for
18 high school students to earn college credit include such programs as
19 the running start program under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400,
20 the digital learning commons, University of Washington extension,
21 WashingtonOnline, and other programs and providers.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.600.320 and 1994 c 205 s 3 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 A school district shall provide general information about the
25 program to all pupils in grades ten, eleven, and twelve and the parents
26 and guardians of those pupils, including information about the
27 opportunity to enroll in the program through online courses available
28 at community and technical colleges and other state institutions of
29 higher education. To assist the district in planning, a pupil shall
30 inform the district of the pupil's intent to enroll in courses at an
31 institution of higher education for credit. Students are responsible
32 for applying for admission to the institution of higher education.

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