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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6533**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2010 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Roach and Gordon)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to granting high school credit for learning  
2 experiences; reenacting and amending RCW 28A.230.090; adding a new  
3 section to chapter 28A.320 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 recognizes that student  
6 learning experiences are enhanced through many activities selected by  
7 students and parents outside the classroom environment. The  
8 legislature finds that recognizing the value of these educational  
9 activities through awarding high school physical education, visual and  
10 performing arts, and elective credits for participation in these  
11 activities will help encourage parental involvement in their  
12 children's education, improve student learning through encouraging  
13 students to take advantage of a broader variety of educational  
14 opportunities, and provide students with the time to take additional  
15 academic courses during the school day.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2009 c 548 s 111 and 2009 c 223 s 2  
17 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

18 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school

1 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except those  
2 equivalencies established by local high schools or school districts  
3 under RCW 28A.230.097. The purpose of a high school diploma is to  
4 declare that a student is ready for success in postsecondary education,  
5 gainful employment, and citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to  
6 be a lifelong learner.

7 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to  
8 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including  
9 information on the culture, history, and government of the American  
10 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

11 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW  
12 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements  
13 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high  
14 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

15 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's  
16 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan  
17 shall remain at the local level.

18 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board  
19 of education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation  
20 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the  
21 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the  
22 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

23 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements  
24 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and  
25 technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to  
26 a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized.  
27 The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in  
28 these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of  
29 academic achievement, complete the program and earn the program's  
30 certificate or credential, and complete other state and local  
31 graduation requirements.

32 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the high  
33 school graduation requirements to the education committees of the  
34 legislature for review and to the quality education council established  
35 under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the opportunity to  
36 act during a regular legislative session before the changes are adopted  
37 through administrative rule by the state board. Changes that have a  
38 fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis

1 prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction,  
2 shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the  
3 legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted  
4 legislation.

5 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other  
6 than English established by the state board of education or a local  
7 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,  
8 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or  
9 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied  
10 the state or local school district graduation requirement for  
11 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

12 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
13 provide by rule for high school credit equivalencies for physical  
14 education, visual and performing arts, and elective requirements for  
15 educational experiences selected by parents and students consistent  
16 with policies adopted by local school boards under section 3 of this  
17 act.

18 (5) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student  
19 who has completed high school courses before attending high school  
20 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling  
21 high school graduation requirements if:

22 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic  
23 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth  
24 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing  
25 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school  
26 students enrolled in the class; or

27 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for  
28 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high  
29 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course  
30 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school  
31 district board of directors.

32 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Students who have taken and successfully completed high  
33 school courses under the circumstances in subsection ~~((+4))~~ (5) of  
34 this section shall not be required to take an additional competency  
35 examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive  
36 credit.

37 ~~((+6))~~ (7) At the college or university level, five quarter or  
38 three semester hours equals one high school credit.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
2    RCW to read as follows:

3        A school district board of directors shall grant high school credit  
4    for certain educational experiences selected by parents and students  
5    consistent with the policies adopted by the office of the  
6    superintendent of public instruction.    By September 1, 2011, each  
7    school district board of directors shall adopt a policy granting high  
8    school credit for certain educational experiences selected by students  
9    or parents.    The policy shall describe the number of credits granted  
10   and the equivalencies for the district's current high school graduation  
11   requirements for physical education, visual and performing arts, and  
12   electives.    Experiences qualifying for educational credit shall include  
13   but not be limited to activities under the supervision of the  
14   Washington interscholastic activities association or other nonprofit  
15   voluntary entity responsible for interschool extracurricular  
16   activities; other activities approved by the school board and  
17   recognized by regional organizations; and other activities approved by  
18   the school board.

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