
HOUSE BILL 2181

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Lytton, Dahlquist, Carlyle, Tharinger, Haigh, and Magendanz

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1 AN ACT Relating to authorizing and supporting career and college
2 ready graduation requirements adopted by the state board of education;
3 amending RCW 28A.150.220 and 28A.230.090; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the revised
6 definition of the program of basic education adopted in 2009 includes
7 the expectation that students will have the opportunity to complete
8 twenty-four credits for high school graduation. The state board of
9 education has the statutory authority to establish specific course
10 requirements for graduation, and in November 2010 the board adopted a
11 career and college ready graduation proposal based on several years of
12 examination and review. The board made modifications to that proposal
13 in January 2014. The board may not implement certain aspects of the
14 proposal without formal legislative authorization and funding. The
15 revised definition of basic education also requires an increase in
16 minimum instructional hours, with the implementation date to be
17 determined by the legislature.

18 (2) The legislature further finds that certain funding enhancements
19 provided in the omnibus appropriations act for the 2013-2015 biennium

1 specifically support school districts in implementing a new career and
2 college ready framework. The legislature provided funding for
3 increased instructional hours for secondary school students, increased
4 staffing allocations for counselors and parent involvement
5 coordinators, and expansion of the learning assistance program and
6 transitional bilingual instruction program to address the learning
7 needs of struggling students. The omnibus appropriations act further
8 directed that basic education instructional hours be increased
9 beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

10 (3) Therefore, the purpose of this act is to formally authorize
11 implementation of the opportunity for students to complete twenty-four
12 credits for graduation, which is supported by increased instruction and
13 increased resources to school districts.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.150.220 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 9 s 2 are each
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (1) In order for students to have the opportunity to develop the
17 basic education knowledge and skills under RCW 28A.150.210, school
18 districts must provide instruction of sufficient quantity and quality
19 and give students the opportunity to complete graduation requirements
20 that are intended to prepare them for postsecondary education, gainful
21 employment, and citizenship. The program established under this
22 section shall be the minimum instructional program of basic education
23 offered by school districts.

24 (2) Each school district shall make available to students the
25 following minimum instructional offering each school year:

26 (a) For students enrolled in grades one through twelve, at least a
27 district-wide annual average of one thousand hours, which shall be
28 increased to at least one thousand eighty instructional hours for
29 students enrolled in each of grades seven through twelve and at least
30 one thousand instructional hours for students in each of grades one
31 through six (~~according to an implementation schedule adopted by the~~
32 ~~legislature, but not before~~) beginning in the 2014-15 school year; and

33 (b) For students enrolled in kindergarten, at least four hundred
34 fifty instructional hours, which shall be increased to at least one
35 thousand instructional hours according to the implementation schedule
36 under RCW 28A.150.315.

1 (3) The instructional program of basic education provided by each
2 school district shall include:

3 (a) Instruction in the essential academic learning requirements
4 under RCW 28A.655.070;

5 (b) Instruction that provides students the opportunity to complete
6 twenty-four credits for high school graduation, (~~subject to a phased-~~
7 ~~in implementation of the twenty four credits as established by the~~
8 ~~legislature~~) beginning with the graduating class of 2019. Course
9 distribution requirements may be established by the state board of
10 education under RCW 28A.230.090;

11 (c) If the essential academic learning requirements include a
12 requirement of languages other than English, the requirement may be met
13 by students receiving instruction in one or more American Indian
14 languages;

15 (d) Supplemental instruction and services for underachieving
16 students through the learning assistance program under RCW 28A.165.005
17 through 28A.165.065;

18 (e) Supplemental instruction and services for eligible and enrolled
19 students and exited students whose primary language is other than
20 English through the transitional bilingual instruction program under
21 RCW 28A.180.010 through 28A.180.080;

22 (f) The opportunity for an appropriate education at public expense
23 as defined by RCW 28A.155.020 for all eligible students with
24 disabilities as defined in RCW 28A.155.020; and

25 (g) Programs for highly capable students under RCW 28A.185.010
26 through 28A.185.030.

27 (4) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to require
28 individual students to attend school for any particular number of hours
29 per day or to take any particular courses.

30 (5) Each school district's kindergarten through twelfth grade basic
31 educational program shall be accessible to all students who are five
32 years of age, as provided by RCW 28A.225.160, and less than twenty-one
33 years of age and shall consist of a minimum of one hundred eighty
34 school days per school year in such grades as are conducted by a school
35 district, and one hundred eighty half-days of instruction, or
36 equivalent, in kindergarten, to be increased to a minimum of one
37 hundred eighty school days per school year according to the
38 implementation schedule under RCW 28A.150.315. However, schools

1 administering the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing
2 skills may use up to three school days at the beginning of the school
3 year to meet with parents and families as required in the parent
4 involvement component of the inventory. In addition, effective May 1,
5 1979, a school district may schedule the last five school days of the
6 one hundred and eighty day school year for noninstructional purposes in
7 the case of students who are graduating from high school, including,
8 but not limited to, the observance of graduation and early release from
9 school upon the request of a student, and all such students may be
10 claimed as a full-time equivalent student to the extent they could
11 otherwise have been so claimed for the purposes of RCW 28A.150.250 and
12 28A.150.260.

13 (6) Nothing in this section precludes a school district from
14 enriching the instructional program of basic education, such as
15 offering additional instruction or providing additional services,
16 programs, or activities that the school district determines to be
17 appropriate for the education of the school district's students.

18 (7) The state board of education shall adopt rules to implement and
19 ensure compliance with the program requirements imposed by this
20 section, RCW 28A.150.250 and 28A.150.260, and such related supplemental
21 program approval requirements as the state board may establish.

22 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2011 c 203 s 2 are each amended to
23 read as follows:

24 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
25 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as
26 provided in RCW 28A.230.122 and except those equivalencies established
27 by local high schools or school districts under RCW 28A.230.097. The
28 purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that a student is ready
29 for success in postsecondary education, gainful employment, and
30 citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a lifelong learner.

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

35 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW
36 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements

1 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
2 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

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

6 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board
7 of education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
8 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
9 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
10 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

11 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements
12 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and
13 technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to
14 a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized.
15 The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in
16 these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of
17 academic achievement, complete the program and earn the program's
18 certificate or credential, and complete other state and local
19 graduation requirements.

20 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the high
21 school graduation requirements to the education committees of the
22 legislature for review and to the quality education council established
23 under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the opportunity to
24 act during a regular legislative session before the changes are adopted
25 through administrative rule by the state board. Changes that have a
26 fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis
27 prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
28 shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the
29 legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted
30 legislation.

31 (d) The state board of education shall adopt rules to implement the
32 career and college ready graduation requirement proposal adopted under
33 board resolution on November 10, 2010, and revised on January 9, 2014,
34 to take effect beginning with the graduating class of 2019. The
35 funding allocated under chapter 4, Laws of 2013 2nd sp. sess. to
36 support the instructional program of basic education constitutes the
37 funding by the legislature required under (c) of this subsection.

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

8 (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student
9 who has completed high school courses before attending high school
10 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling
11 high school graduation requirements if:

12 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
13 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth
14 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
15 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
16 students enrolled in the class; or

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

22 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school
23 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall
24 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform
25 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

26 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three
27 semester hours equals one high school credit.

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