
HOUSE BILL 2396

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Representatives Orwall, Bergquist, Seaquist, Ryu, Roberts, Riccelli, Tarleton, Gregerson, Pollet, and Habib

Read first time 01/16/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to addressing barriers for students to participate
2 in the running start program; adding a new section to chapter 28A.630
3 RCW; creating new sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that low-income
6 students and students of color often do not have access to dual credit
7 programs that allow students to earn both high school and college
8 credits. Low-income students and students of color are
9 underrepresented in the running start program. Running start provides
10 a cost-effective way for high school students to obtain college credits
11 and also accelerates their progress through the education system.

12 Because low-income students and students of color are
13 underrepresented in the running start program, they are unable to take
14 advantage of its benefits. Therefore, a comprehensive review of the
15 program and barriers to participating in the program is necessary to
16 improve enrollment among those populations and to ensure that the
17 running start program is accessible to all students.

18 It is also necessary to improve collaboration between K-12 schools

1 and running start institutions, and for those institutions and schools
2 to develop concrete plans for improving underrepresented student
3 enrollment.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The student achievement council shall
5 conduct a comprehensive analysis of the running start program. The
6 analysis must include a review of the barriers that students face in
7 participating in the program, identification of best practices in
8 making the program accessible and preparing students academically for
9 the program, and the degree completion outcomes of students who
10 participate in the program. The council shall submit a report based on
11 this analysis to the education committees of the legislature by January
12 1, 2015.

13 (2) This section expires August 1, 2015.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1)(a) Participation plans shall be developed to increase
17 enrollment of underrepresented students in the running start program.

18 (b) Development of the plans shall be facilitated by the office of
19 the superintendent of public instruction and through close
20 collaboration and coordination between participating institutions of
21 higher education as defined in RCW 28A.600.300 that have over fifty
22 students participating in the running start program and school
23 districts with students participating in the program. School districts
24 of the second class and nonhigh districts are not required to
25 participate.

26 (c) School districts must meet with participating institutions of
27 higher education located within their district and identify a plan for
28 increasing enrollment of underrepresented students in the running start
29 program. These meetings may include more than one school district or
30 participating institution of higher education.

31 (d) A plan identified by each school district and partnering
32 running start institution must be provided to the office of the
33 superintendent of public instruction by November 1, 2014.

34 (2) Each plan identified under subsection (1) of this section must
35 include a focus on:

1 (a) Identifying and implementing strategies to provide outreach
2 regarding the running start program to underrepresented populations at
3 middle schools and high schools to ensure that students and families
4 have information on the program, including outreach efforts conducted
5 by students from underrepresented populations, representatives from
6 participating institutions of higher education visiting local high
7 schools, and school districts providing explicit information sessions
8 regarding running start; and

9 (b) Ensuring better coordination between middle schools, high
10 schools, and participating institutions of higher education to provide
11 academic guidance to students who have been underrepresented in the
12 running start program so that these students are better able to
13 participate in the program.

14 (3) By January 1, 2015, the office of the superintendent of public
15 instruction must provide to the appropriate committees of the
16 legislature guidelines for improving outreach to students who have been
17 underrepresented in the running start program and for collaboration
18 among middle schools, high schools, and participating institutions of
19 higher education based on the plans that were reported under subsection
20 (1) of this section by school districts and participating institutions
21 of higher education.

22 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
23 collect current demographic data from each school district related to
24 student participation in the running start program. This data shall be
25 compared with data collected after two years of collaboration as
26 described in subsection (1) of this section, and submitted to the
27 appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2017.

28 (5) This section expires August 1, 2018.

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