
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2540

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Stonier, Morrell, Magendanz, Fey, Bergquist, Haigh, Freeman, and Lytton; by request of Governor Inslee)

READ FIRST TIME 02/05/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing career and technical course
2 equivalencies in science and mathematics; amending RCW 28A.700.070,
3 28A.230.097, and 28A.230.010; adding a new section to chapter 28A.305
4 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that an increasing
7 number of career opportunities in high-demand fields will require solid
8 knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and
9 mathematics, including opportunities at all levels of postsecondary
10 education from apprenticeship to industry certification to
11 postbaccalaureate degrees.

12 (2) The legislature further finds that career and technical courses
13 can be designed to offer rigorous academic content through applied
14 learning that is relevant and engaging for students. However, although
15 there is a requirement that school districts adopt policies regarding
16 granting academic credit for equivalent career and technical courses,
17 in practice these policies are not applied in a consistent fashion
18 across the state.

1 (3) Therefore, in order to offer high school students increased
2 flexibility and expanded opportunities to gain critical knowledge and
3 skills and meet high school graduation requirements in mathematics and
4 science, the legislature intends to require establishment of a
5 standardized set of career and technical course equivalents through a
6 process that assures the courses are both rigorous and relevant for
7 students. Further, the legislature intends to offer high school
8 students the opportunity to access career and technical education
9 course equivalencies for mathematics and science.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.700.070 and 2008 c 170 s 201 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
13 support school district efforts under RCW 28A.230.097 to adopt course
14 equivalencies for career and technical courses by:

15 (a) Recommending career and technical curriculum suitable for
16 course equivalencies;

17 (b) Publicizing best practices for high schools and school
18 districts in developing and adopting course equivalencies; and

19 (c) In consultation with the Washington association for career and
20 technical education, providing professional development, technical
21 assistance, and guidance for school districts seeking to expand their
22 lists of equivalent courses.

23 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
24 provide professional development, technical assistance, and guidance
25 for school districts to develop career and technical course
26 equivalencies that also qualify as advanced placement courses.

27 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
28 consultation with one or more technical working groups convened for
29 this purpose, shall develop curriculum frameworks for a selected list
30 of career and technical courses that may be offered by high schools or
31 skill centers whose content in science, technology, engineering, and
32 mathematics is considered equivalent in full or in part to science or
33 mathematics courses that meet high school graduation requirements. The
34 content of the courses must be aligned with state essential academic
35 learning requirements to reflect the common core state standards in
36 mathematics and the next generation science standards and industry
37 standards. The office shall submit the list of equivalent career and

1 technical courses and their curriculum frameworks to the state board of
2 education for review, an opportunity for public comment, and approval.
3 The first list of courses under this subsection must be developed and
4 approved before the 2015-16 school year. Thereafter, the office may
5 periodically update or revise the list of courses using the process in
6 this subsection.

7 (4) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of
8 the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate grant funds to
9 school districts to increase the integration and rigor of academic
10 instruction in career and technical courses. Grant recipients are
11 encouraged to use grant funds to support teams of academic and
12 technical teachers using a research-based professional development
13 model supported by the national research center for career and
14 technical education. The office of the superintendent of public
15 instruction may require that grant recipients provide matching
16 resources using federal Carl Perkins funds or other fund sources.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.097 and 2013 c 241 s 2 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (1) Each high school or school district board of directors shall
20 adopt course equivalencies for career and technical high school courses
21 offered to students in high schools and skill centers. A career and
22 technical course equivalency may be for whole or partial credit. Each
23 school district board of directors shall develop a course equivalency
24 approval procedure. Boards of directors must approve AP computer
25 science courses as equivalent to high school mathematics or science,
26 and must denote on a student's transcript that AP computer science
27 qualifies as a math-based quantitative course for students who take the
28 course in their senior year. In order for a board to approve AP
29 computer science as equivalent to high school mathematics, the student
30 must be concurrently enrolled in or have successfully completed algebra
31 II. Beginning no later than the 2015-16 school year, a school district
32 board of directors must, at a minimum, grant academic course
33 equivalency in mathematics or science for a high school career and
34 technical course from the list of courses approved by the state board
35 of education under RCW 28A.700.070, but is not limited to the courses
36 on the list. If the list of courses is revised after the 2015-16

1 school year, the school district board of directors must grant academic
2 course equivalency based on the revised list beginning with the school
3 year immediately following the revision.

4 (2) Career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to
5 academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or school
6 district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements, including
7 graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the student's
8 transcript using the equivalent academic high school department
9 designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be recorded as
10 appropriate. The high school or school district shall also issue and
11 keep record of course completion certificates that demonstrate that the
12 career and technical courses were successfully completed as needed for
13 industry certification, college credit, or preapprenticeship, as
14 applicable. The certificate shall be either part of the student's high
15 school and beyond plan or the student's culminating project, as
16 determined by the student. The office of the superintendent of public
17 instruction shall develop and make available electronic samples of
18 certificates of course completion.

19 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.230.010 and 2003 c 49 s 1 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 (1) School district boards of directors shall identify and offer
22 courses with content that meet or exceed: ((+1)) (a) The basic
23 education skills identified in RCW 28A.150.210; ((+2)) (b) the
24 graduation requirements under RCW 28A.230.090; ((+3)) (c) the courses
25 required to meet the minimum college entrance requirements under RCW
26 28A.230.130; and ((+4)) (d) the course options for career development
27 under RCW 28A.230.130. Such courses may be applied or theoretical,
28 academic, or vocational.

29 (2) School district boards of directors must provide high school
30 students with the opportunity to access at least one career and
31 technical education course that is considered equivalent to a
32 mathematics course and at least one career and technical education
33 course that is considered equivalent to a science course as determined
34 by the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the state
35 board of education in RCW 28A.700.070. Students may access such
36 courses at high schools, interdistrict cooperatives, skill centers or

1 branch or satellite skill centers, or through online learning or
2 applicable running start vocational courses.

3 (3) School district boards of directors of school districts with
4 fewer than two thousand students may apply to the state board of
5 education for a waiver from the provisions of subsection (2) of this
6 section.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.305
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 The state board of education may grant a waiver from the provisions
10 of RCW 28A.230.010(2) based on an application from a board of directors
11 of a school district with fewer than two thousand students.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Sections 4 and 5 of this act take effect
13 September 1, 2015.

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