
SENATE BILL 6083

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Bailey, Frockt, and McAuliffe

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to precollege placement measures; amending RCW
2 28B.77.020; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 State universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State
7 College may use multiple measures to determine whether a student must
8 enroll in a precollege course including, but not limited to, placement
9 tests, the SAT, high school transcripts, college transcripts, or
10 initial class performance. Additionally, state universities, regional
11 universities, and The Evergreen State College must post all the
12 available options for course placement on their web sites and in their
13 admissions materials.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.77.020 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 25 s 6 are each
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (1) Aligned with the state's biennial budget and policy cycles, the
17 council shall propose educational attainment goals and priorities to

1 meet the state's evolving needs. The council shall identify strategies
2 for meeting the goals and priorities by means of a short-term strategic
3 action plan and a ten-year plan that serves as a roadmap.

4 (a) The goals must address the needs of Washington residents to
5 reach higher levels of educational attainment and Washington's
6 workforce needs for certificates and degrees in particular fields of
7 study.

8 (b) The council shall identify the resources it deems appropriate
9 to meet statewide goals and also recognize current state economic
10 conditions and state resources.

11 (c) In proposing goals, the council shall collaborate with the
12 superintendent of public instruction, the professional educator
13 standards board, the state board of education, the state board for
14 community and technical colleges, the four-year institutions of higher
15 education, independent colleges and degree-granting institutions,
16 certificate-granting institutions, and the workforce training and
17 education coordinating board.

18 (2) The council shall update the strategic action plan every two
19 years with the first strategic action plan to be submitted to the
20 governor and the legislature by December 1, 2012. The ten-year roadmap
21 must be updated every two years with the first roadmap to be submitted
22 to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2013. The council
23 must provide regular updates to the joint higher education committee
24 created in RCW 44.04.360 as needed.

25 (3) In order to develop the ten-year roadmap, the council shall
26 conduct strategic planning in collaboration with agencies and
27 stakeholders and include input from the legislature. The council must
28 also consult with the STEM education innovation alliance established
29 under RCW 28A.188.030 in order to align strategies under the roadmap
30 with the STEM framework for education and accountability developed by
31 the alliance. The roadmap must encompass all sectors of higher
32 education, including secondary to postsecondary transitions. The
33 roadmap must outline strategies that address:

34 (a) Strategic planning, which includes setting benchmarks and goals
35 for long-term degree production generally and in particular fields of
36 study;

37 (b) Expanding access, affordability, quality, efficiency, and
38 accountability among the various institutions of higher education;

1 (c) Higher education finance planning and strategic investments
2 including budget recommendations necessary to meet statewide goals;

3 (d) System design and coordination;

4 (e) Improving student transitions;

5 (f) Higher education data and analysis, in collaboration with the
6 education data center, which includes outcomes for recruitment,
7 retention, and success of students;

8 (g) College and career access preparedness, in collaboration with
9 the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the state
10 board of education;

11 (h) Expanding participation and success for racial and ethnic
12 minorities in higher education;

13 (i) Development and expansion of innovations in higher education
14 including innovations to increase attainment of postsecondary
15 certificates, and associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional
16 degrees; and innovations to improve precollege education in terms of
17 cost-effectiveness and transitions to college-level education;

18 (j) Strengthening the education pipeline and degree production in
19 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields, and aligning
20 strategies under the roadmap with the STEM framework for action and
21 accountability developed under RCW 28A.188.030; and

22 (k) Relevant policy research.

23 (4) As needed, the council must conduct system reviews consistent
24 with RCW 28B.77.080.

25 (5) The council shall facilitate the development and expansion of
26 innovative practices within, between, and among the sectors to increase
27 educational attainment and assess the effectiveness of the innovations.

28 (6) The council shall use the data and analysis produced by, and in
29 consultation with, the education data center created in RCW 43.41.400
30 in developing policy recommendations and proposing goals. In
31 conducting research and analysis the council at a minimum must:

32 (a) Identify barriers to increasing educational attainment,
33 evaluate effectiveness of various educational models, identify best
34 practices, and recommend methods to overcome barriers;

35 (b) Analyze data from multiple sources including data from academic
36 research and from areas and agencies outside of education including but
37 not limited to data from the department of health, the department of

1 corrections, and the department of social and health services to
2 determine best practices to remove barriers and to improve educational
3 attainment;

4 (c) Assess educational achievement disaggregated by income level,
5 age, gender, race and ethnicity, country of origin, and other relevant
6 demographic groups working with data from the education data center;

7 (d) Track progress toward meeting the state's goals;

8 (e) Communicate results and provide access to data analysis to
9 policymakers, the superintendent of public instruction, institutions of
10 higher education, students, and the public; and

11 (f) Use data from the education data center wherever appropriate to
12 conduct duties in (a) through (e) of this subsection.

13 (7) The council shall collaborate with the appropriate state
14 agencies and stakeholders, including the state board of education, the
15 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state board for
16 community and technical colleges, the workforce training and education
17 coordinating board, and the four-year institutions of higher education
18 to improve student transitions and success including but not limited
19 to:

20 (a) Setting minimum college admission standards for four-year
21 institutions of higher education, including:

22 (i) A requirement that coursework in American sign language or an
23 American Indian language satisfies any requirement for instruction in
24 a language other than English that the council or the institutions may
25 establish as a general undergraduate admissions requirement; and

26 (ii) Encouragement of the use of multiple measures to determine
27 whether a student must enroll in a precollege course, such as placement
28 tests, the SAT, high school transcripts, college transcripts, or
29 initial class performance;

30 (b) Proposing comprehensive policies and programs to encourage
31 students to prepare for, understand how to access, and pursue
32 postsecondary college and career programs, including specific policies
33 and programs for students with disabilities;

34 (c) Recommending policies that require coordination between or
35 among sectors such as dual high school-college programs, awarding
36 college credit for advanced high school work, and transfer between two
37 and four-year institutions of higher education or between different
38 four-year institutions of higher education; and

1 (d) Identifying transitions issues and solutions for students, from
2 high school to postsecondary education including community and
3 technical colleges, four-year institutions of higher education,
4 apprenticeships, training, or workplace education; between two-year and
5 four-year institutions of higher education; and from postsecondary
6 education to career. In addressing these issues the council must
7 recognize that these transitions may occur multiple times as students
8 continue their education.

9 (8) The council directs the work of the office, which includes
10 administration of student financial aid programs under RCW 28B.76.090,
11 including the state need grant and other scholarships, the Washington
12 advanced college tuition payment program, and work-study programs.

13 (9) The council may administer state and federal grants and
14 programs including but not limited to those programs that provide
15 incentives for improvements related to increased access and success in
16 postsecondary education.

17 (10) The council shall protect higher education consumers
18 including:

19 (a) Approving degree-granting postsecondary institutions consistent
20 with existing statutory criteria;

21 (b) Establishing minimum criteria to assess whether students who
22 attend proprietary institutions of higher education shall be eligible
23 for the state need grant and other forms of state financial aid.

24 (i) The criteria shall include retention rates, completion rates,
25 loan default rates, and annual tuition increases, among other criteria
26 for students who receive state need grant as in chapter 28B.92 RCW and
27 any other state financial aid.

28 (ii) The council may remove proprietary institutions of higher
29 education from eligibility for the state need grant or other form of
30 state financial aid if it finds that the institution or college does
31 not meet minimum criteria.

32 (iii) The council shall report by December 1, 2014, to the joint
33 higher education committee in RCW 44.04.360 on the outcomes of students
34 receiving state need grants, impacts on meeting the state's higher
35 education goals for educational attainment, and options for
36 prioritization of the state need grant and possible consequences of
37 implementing each option. When examining options for prioritizing the

1 state need grant the council shall consider awarding grants based on
2 need rather than date of application and making awards based on other
3 criteria selected by the council.

4 (11) The council shall adopt residency requirements by rule.

5 (12) The council shall arbitrate disputes between and among four-
6 year institutions of higher education and the state board for community
7 and technical colleges at the request of one or more of the
8 institutions involved, or at the request of the governor, or from a
9 resolution adopted by the legislature. The decision of the council
10 shall be binding on the participants in the dispute.

11 (13) The council may solicit, accept, receive, and administer
12 federal funds or private funds, in trust, or otherwise, and contract
13 with foundations or with for-profit or nonprofit organizations to
14 support the purposes and functions of the council.

15 (14) The council shall represent the broad public interest above
16 the interests of the individual institutions of higher education.

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