
SENATE BILL 6482

State of Washington 63rd Legislature 2014 Regular Session

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

Read first time 01/29/14. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the dashboard for four-year institutions of
2 higher education; amending RCW 28B.77.090; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the data
5 available on the statewide public four-year dashboard displayed by the
6 office of financial management is useful to prospective students and
7 their families when making decisions about which institutions of higher
8 education to apply to and ultimately attend. Therefore, the
9 legislature intends for the four-year institutions of higher education
10 and the office of financial management to provide data about branch
11 campuses in addition to main campuses in order to better serve the
12 public.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.77.090 and 2013 c 23 s 60 are each amended to read
14 as follows:

15 (1) An accountability monitoring and reporting system is
16 established as part of a continuing effort to make meaningful and
17 substantial progress towards the achievement of long-term performance
18 goals in higher education.

1 (2) To provide consistent, easily understood data among the public
2 four-year institutions of higher education within Washington and in
3 other states, the following data must be reported to the education data
4 center annually by December 1st, and at a minimum include data
5 recommended by a national organization representing state chief
6 executives. The education data center in consultation with the council
7 may change the data requirements to be consistent with best practices
8 across the country. This data must, to the maximum extent possible, be
9 disaggregated by race and ethnicity, gender, state and county of
10 origin, age, and socioeconomic status, and include the following for
11 the four-year institutions of higher education:

12 (a) Bachelor's degrees awarded;

13 (b) Graduate and professional degrees awarded;

14 (c) Graduation rates: The number and percentage of students who
15 graduate within four years for bachelor's degrees and within the
16 extended time, which is six years for bachelor's degrees;

17 (d) Transfer rates: The annual number and percentage of students
18 who transfer from a two-year to a four-year institution of higher
19 education;

20 (e) Time and credits to degree: The average length of time in
21 years and average number of credits that graduating students took to
22 earn a bachelor's degree;

23 (f) Enrollment in remedial education: The number and percentage of
24 entering first-time undergraduate students who place into and enroll in
25 remedial mathematics, English, or both;

26 (g) Success beyond remedial education: The number and percentage
27 of entering first-time undergraduate students who complete entry
28 college-level math and English courses within the first two consecutive
29 academic years;

30 (h) Credit accumulation: The number and percentage of first-time
31 undergraduate students completing two quarters or one semester worth of
32 credit during their first academic year;

33 (i) Retention rates: The number and percentage of entering
34 undergraduate students who enroll consecutively from fall-to-spring and
35 fall-to-fall at an institution of higher education;

36 (j) Course completion: The percentage of credit hours completed
37 out of those attempted during an academic year;

1 (k) Program participation and degree completion rates in bachelor
2 and advanced degree programs in the sciences, which includes
3 agriculture and natural resources, biology and biomedical sciences,
4 computer and information sciences, engineering and engineering
5 technologies, health professions and clinical sciences, mathematics and
6 statistics, and physical sciences and science technologies, including
7 participation and degree completion rates for students from
8 traditionally underrepresented populations;

9 (l) Annual enrollment: Annual unduplicated number of students
10 enrolled over a twelve-month period at institutions of higher education
11 including by student level;

12 (m) Annual first-time enrollment: Total first-time students
13 enrolled in a four-year institution of higher education;

14 (n) Completion ratio: Annual ratio of undergraduate and graduate
15 degrees and certificates, of at least one year in expected length,
16 awarded per one hundred full-time equivalent undergraduate students at
17 the state level;

18 (o) Market penetration: Annual ratio of undergraduate and graduate
19 degrees and certificates, of at least one year in program length,
20 awarded relative to the state's population age eighteen to twenty-four
21 years old with a high school diploma;

22 (p) Student debt load: Median three-year distribution of debt
23 load, excluding private loans or debts incurred before coming to the
24 institution;

25 (q) Data related to enrollment, completion rates, participation
26 rates, and debt load shall be disaggregated for students in the
27 following income brackets to the maximum extent possible:

28 (i) Up to seventy percent of the median family income;

29 (ii) Between seventy-one percent and one hundred twenty-five
30 percent of the median family income; and

31 (iii) Above one hundred twenty-five percent of the median family
32 income; and

33 (r) Yearly percentage increases in the average cost of
34 undergraduate instruction.

35 (3) Four-year institutions of higher education must count all
36 students when collecting data, not only first-time, full-time first-
37 year students.

1 (4)(a) In conjunction with the office of financial management, all
2 four-year institutions of higher education including branch campuses
3 established under chapter 28B.45 RCW, must display the data described
4 in subsection (2) of this section in a uniform dashboard format on the
5 office of financial management's web site no later than December 1,
6 2011, ~~((and))~~ for main campuses and December 1, 2014, for branch
7 campuses. The web site must be updated thereafter annually by December
8 1st. To the maximum extent possible, the information must be viewable
9 by race and ethnicity, gender, state and county of origin, age, and
10 socioeconomic status. The information may be tailored to meet the
11 needs of various target audiences such as students, researchers, and
12 the general public.

13 (b) When data suppression is necessary to protect student privacy,
14 the education data center shall avoid redacting data to the maximum
15 extent possible, using alternatives such as combining data groupings or
16 using the percentage of students in place of the specific number of
17 students.

18 (5) The council shall use performance data from the education data
19 center for the purposes of strategic planning, to report on progress
20 toward achieving statewide goals, and to develop priorities proposed in
21 the ten-year plan for higher education.

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