

2SSB 5265 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Appropriations

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that the
4 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented disruption to
5 the education of students throughout the state, and uniquely impacted
6 students who are or were nearing the completion of graduation
7 requirements.

8 (2) Although remote and hybrid instruction, supported by the
9 exceptional efforts of teachers and other education professionals,
10 has proven satisfactory for many students, some courses, subjects,
11 and critical attributes of in-person learning experiences cannot be
12 replicated through highly modified learning environments.
13 Additionally, some education experiences, including full course
14 offerings and extracurricular activities, were reduced or eliminated
15 in response to the pandemic.

16 (3) The legislature, therefore, in recognition of the
17 extraordinary impacts of an ongoing pandemic, intends to establish a
18 temporary two-year program to provide an opportunity for students in
19 the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022 to complete up to one
20 additional school year to pursue academic and experiential
21 opportunities that were diminished or eliminated as a result of the
22 COVID-19 pandemic.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1)(a) The bridge year program is established to provide an
26 opportunity for students in the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022
27 to complete up to one additional school year to pursue academic and
28 experiential opportunities that were diminished or eliminated as a
29 result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is temporary, expires as

1 provided in section 8 of this act, and shall be administered by the
2 state board of education.

3 (b) The objective of a bridge year is for students, with the
4 support of the applicable high school, to remedy or otherwise
5 address:

6 (i) Learning loss, including learning loss that may be
7 attributable to fewer opportunities for in-person instruction during
8 the 2020-21 school year, learning loss evidenced by academic
9 performances that were inconsistent with previous efforts of the
10 student, and the loss of opportunity to learn in the manner
11 traditionally accessed by the student;

12 (ii) Unmet graduation requirements, including opportunities for
13 meeting graduation requirements that were not available during the
14 2020-21 school year;

15 (iii) Fewer opportunities to access and earn 24 credits;

16 (iv) Fewer opportunities to access courses traditionally offered
17 to students, including career and technical education courses and
18 dual credit courses;

19 (v) Fewer or significantly modified opportunities for mastering
20 academic skills, including diminished opportunities for accessing:
21 Applied learning experiences and learning experiences traditionally
22 associated with the synchronous efforts of other students, such as
23 music and drama, and services provided to students in accordance with
24 individualized education programs; and

25 (vi) Fewer or significantly modified opportunities for social-
26 emotional learning, and extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

27 (2)(a) Each public school and school district that applied to the
28 state board of education for authorization to grant individual
29 student emergency waivers under section 2, chapter 7, Laws of 2021
30 must offer the bridge year program to students of the applicable
31 public school or school district in the graduating classes of 2021
32 and 2022.

33 (b) Private schools subject to requirements under chapter 28A.195
34 RCW may participate in the applicable provisions of the program, as
35 determined by rule of the state board of education.

36 (3)(a) Each public high school participating in the program shall
37 designate a school staff member as a program liaison to assist
38 students and families with the implementation of the program. Nothing
39 in this section requires a school or school district to hire an
40 individual to serve as a program liaison.

1 (b) The program liaison shall provide individual student advising
2 to help students determine whether the program is appropriate for
3 their needs and, if so, assist each student in developing an addendum
4 to their high school and beyond plan. The addendum must define the
5 academic goals and objectives to be achieved during the student's
6 bridge year, examples of which include increased mastery of academic
7 concepts, completion of dual credit courses, career and technical
8 education courses, or both, and additional experiences in applied
9 learning environments. The addendum also must detail activities and
10 strategies for accomplishing the goals and objectives, including
11 counseling, academic support, coursework, and extracurricular and
12 cocurricular activities.

13 (4) Each high school participating in the program shall maintain
14 records as necessary and as required by rule of the state board of
15 education to demonstrate compliance with this section.

16 (5) Students in the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022 may
17 participate in the program for up to one academic year. Student
18 participation in the program is voluntary and may not be mandated by
19 a school or school district. If a student has met all applicable
20 graduation requirements and elects to participate in the program, the
21 student must defer graduation for the duration of the bridge year.
22 Students who participate in the program must:

23 (a) Have had their ability to complete one or more graduation
24 requirements impeded by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

25 (b) Have been reasonably expected to graduate in the academic
26 year prior to their participation in the program.

27 (6) Schools and school districts participating in the program
28 shall expunge marks or grades from a participating student's
29 transcript if the student completes the course with a higher mark or
30 grade during their bridge year.

31 (7) (a) Students participating in the program who defer graduation
32 for one year in accordance with subsection (5) of this section may
33 participate in graduation ceremonies with the graduating class of
34 2021 or 2022, as applicable, but the high school may not issue
35 diplomas to those students until the conclusion of the bridge year or
36 upon a student's withdrawal from the program.

37 (b) Participating students who have met all graduation
38 requirements have graduated with their initial graduation cohort for
39 purposes of calculating the four-year graduation rate for that
40 cohort.

1 (8) A student who withdraws from the program or meets the goals
2 and objectives of the high school and beyond plan addendum before
3 completing the academic year is, upon withdrawal or completion of the
4 goals and objectives, ineligible to participate in interscholastic
5 and extracurricular activities of an athletic, cultural, social, or
6 recreational nature authorized under section 3 of this act.

7 (9) For purposes of funding allocations and student enrollment,
8 students participating in the program who enroll in running start
9 courses count as running start students for time spent in running
10 start courses.

11 (10) School districts, charter schools, and state-tribal
12 education compact schools participating in the program are eligible
13 for funds provided in accordance with chapters 28A.150, 28A.710, and
14 28A.715 RCW, as applicable.

15 (11) The state board of education shall adopt, and may amend as
16 necessary, rules to implement this section.

17 (12) For the purposes of this section and section 3 of this act:

18 (a) "Bridge year" means the full or partial academic year during
19 which a student is participating in the program; and

20 (b) "Program" means the bridge year program established by this
21 section.

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

24 (1) A student participating in a program pursuant to section 2 of
25 this act shall be, for purposes of eligibility for activities
26 sanctioned by the Washington interscholastic activities association
27 and extracurricular activities, considered in their fourth year of
28 eligibility after entering the ninth grade.

29 (2) A student participating in a sport or extracurricular
30 activity during the student's bridge year shall pay applicable
31 student athletic and activities fees and be subject to the applicable
32 high school's student code of conduct, athletic code of conduct, and
33 any other applicable codes, rules, or policies required for student
34 participation in these activities.

35 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or
36 regulation to the contrary, an insurer doing business in the state
37 and issuing liability insurance policies to school districts must
38 provide coverage for students participating in a sport or

1 extracurricular activity under this section as part of a school or
2 school district's liability insurance policy.

3 (4) For purposes of this section, "bridge year" and "program"
4 have the same meaning as in section 2 of this act.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The state board of education, in accordance with RCW
8 43.01.036, shall report its finding and recommendations regarding the
9 bridge year program established in section 2 of this act to the
10 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the education
11 committees of the legislature by April 1, 2023.

12 (2) The report required by this section must include:

13 (a) The number of students, schools, and school districts that
14 participated in the program, by school year;

15 (b) Reasons identified by students for participating in the
16 program, by school year;

17 (c) The number and percentage of students who completed the
18 requirements of the program, by school year;

19 (d) The average number of high school and postsecondary credits
20 earned by students participating in the program, by school year;

21 (e) The number and percentage of students who did not complete
22 the requirements of the program and the reasons identified by
23 students for not doing so, by school year; and

24 (f) Any other information deemed relevant by the state board of
25 education.

26 (3) Student-level data required by this section for participating
27 students must be disaggregated in a manner that is consistent with
28 RCW 28A.300.042(3).

29 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
30 collect the data necessary for the report required by this section
31 and provide the data to the state board of education by December 31,
32 2022.

33 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.600.290 and 2015 c 202 s 3 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 (1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
36 this specific purpose and commencing with the 2015-16 school year,
37 funding may be allocated at an amount per college credit for eleventh
38 and twelfth grade students (~~(0#)~~)L students who have not yet received

1 a high school diploma or its equivalent and are eligible to be in the
2 eleventh or twelfth grade, and students participating in a bridge
3 year under section 2 of this act, who are enrolled in college in the
4 high school courses under this section as specified in the omnibus
5 appropriations act and adjusted for inflation from the 2015-16 school
6 year. The maximum annual number of allocated credits per
7 participating student shall be specified in the omnibus
8 appropriations act, which must not exceed ten credits. Funding shall
9 be prioritized in the following order:

10 (i) High schools offering a running start in the high school
11 program in school year 2014-15. These schools shall only receive
12 prioritized funding in school year 2015-16;

13 (ii) Students whose residence or the high school in which they
14 are enrolled is located twenty driving miles or more as measured by
15 the most direct route from the nearest eligible institution of higher
16 education offering a running start program, whichever is greater; and

17 (iii) High schools eligible for the small school funding
18 enhancement in the omnibus appropriations act.

19 (b)(i) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
20 this specific purpose and commencing with the 2015-16 school year,
21 and only after the programs in (a) of this subsection are funded, a
22 subsidy may be provided per college credit for eleventh and twelfth
23 grade students ~~((\oplus))~~, students who have not yet received a high
24 school diploma or its equivalent and are eligible to be in the
25 eleventh or twelfth grade, and students participating in a bridge
26 year under section 2 of this act, who have been deemed eligible for
27 free or reduced-price lunch and are enrolled in college in the high
28 school courses under this section as specified in the omnibus
29 appropriations act and adjusted for inflation from the 2015-16 school
30 year. The maximum annual number of subsidized credits per
31 participating student shall be specified in the omnibus
32 appropriations act, which must not exceed five credits.

33 (ii) Districts wishing to participate in the subsidy program must
34 apply to the office of the superintendent of public instruction by
35 July 1st of each year and report the preliminary estimate of eligible
36 students to receive the subsidy and the total number of projected
37 credit hours.

38 (iii) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
39 shall notify districts by September 1st of each school year if the
40 district's students will receive the subsidy. If more districts apply

1 than funding is available, the office of the superintendent of public
2 instruction shall prioritize the district applications. The
3 superintendent shall develop factors to determine priority including,
4 but not limited to, the number of dual credit opportunities available
5 for low-income students in the districts.

6 (c) Districts shall remit any allocations or subsidies on behalf
7 of participating students under (a) and (b) of this subsection to the
8 participating institution of higher education and those students
9 shall not be required to pay for the credits.

10 (d) The minimum allocation and subsidy under this section is
11 sixty-five dollars per quarter credit for credit-bearing
12 postsecondary coursework. The office of the superintendent of public
13 instruction, the student achievement council, the state board for
14 community and technical colleges, and the public baccalaureate
15 institutions shall review funding levels for the program every four
16 years beginning in 2017 and recommend changes.

17 (e) Students may pay college in the high school fees with
18 advanced college tuition payment program tuition units at a rate set
19 by the advanced college tuition payment program governing body under
20 chapter 28B.95 RCW.

21 (2) For the purposes of funding students enrolled in the college
22 in the high school program in accordance with subsection (1) of this
23 section, college in the high school is defined as a dual credit
24 program located on a high school campus or in a high school
25 environment in which a high school student, or a student
26 participating in a bridge year under section 2 of this act, is able
27 to earn both high school and postsecondary credit by completing
28 postsecondary level courses with a passing grade.

29 (3) College in the high school programs may include both academic
30 and career and technical education.

31 (4) College in the high school programs shall each be governed by
32 a local contract between the district and the participating
33 institution of higher education, in compliance with the rules adopted
34 by the superintendent of public instruction under this section.

35 (5) The college in the high school program must include the
36 provisions in this subsection.

37 (a) The high school and participating institution of higher
38 education together shall define the criteria for student eligibility.
39 The institution of higher education may charge tuition fees to
40 participating students. If specific funding is provided in the

1 omnibus appropriations act for the per credit allocations and per
2 credit subsidies under subsection (1) of this section, the maximum
3 per credit fee charged to any enrolled student may not exceed the
4 amount of the per credit allocation or subsidy.

5 (b) The funds received by the participating institution of higher
6 education may not be deemed tuition or operating fees and may be
7 retained by the institution of higher education.

8 (c) Enrollment information on persons registered under this
9 section must be maintained by the institution of higher education
10 separately from other enrollment information and may not be included
11 in official enrollment reports, nor may such persons be considered in
12 any enrollment statistics that would affect higher education
13 budgetary determinations.

14 (d) A school district must grant high school credit to a student
15 enrolled in a program course if the student successfully completes
16 the course. If no comparable course is offered by the school
17 district, the school district superintendent shall determine how many
18 credits to award for the course. The determination shall be made in
19 writing before the student enrolls in the course. The credits shall
20 be applied toward graduation requirements and subject area
21 requirements. Evidence of successful completion of each program
22 course shall be included in the student's secondary school records
23 and transcript.

24 (e) A participating institution of higher education must grant
25 college credit to a student enrolled in a program course if the
26 student successfully completes the course. The college credit shall
27 be applied toward general education requirements or degree
28 requirements at institutions of higher education. Evidence of
29 successful completion of each program course must be included in the
30 student's college transcript.

31 (f) Tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students or students who
32 have not yet received a high school diploma or its equivalent and are
33 eligible to be in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grades, and
34 students participating in a bridge year under section 2 of this act,
35 may participate in the college in the high school program.

36 (g) Participating school districts must provide general
37 information about the college in the high school program to all
38 students in grades nine through twelve and to the parents and
39 guardians of those students.

1 (h) Full-time and part-time faculty at institutions of higher
2 education, including adjunct faculty, are eligible to teach program
3 courses.

4 (6) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules
5 for the administration of this section. The rules shall be jointly
6 developed by the superintendent of public instruction, the state
7 board for community and technical colleges, the student achievement
8 council, and the public baccalaureate institutions. The association
9 of Washington school principals must be consulted during the rules
10 development. The rules must outline quality and eligibility standards
11 that are informed by nationally recognized standards or models. In
12 addition, the rules must encourage the maximum use of the program and
13 may not narrow or limit the enrollment options.

14 (7) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
15 section.

16 (a) "Institution of higher education" has the definition in RCW
17 28B.10.016, and also includes a public tribal college located in
18 Washington and accredited by the Northwest commission on colleges and
19 universities or another accrediting association recognized by the
20 United States department of education.

21 (b) "Program course" means a college course offered in a high
22 school under the college in the high school program.

23 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.600.310 and 2019 c 252 s 115 and 2019 c 176 s 2
24 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

25 (1)(a) Eleventh and twelfth grade students (~~(e)~~), students who
26 have not yet received the credits required for the award of a high
27 school diploma and are eligible to be in the eleventh or twelfth
28 grades, and students participating in a bridge year under section 2
29 of this act, may apply to a participating institution of higher
30 education to enroll in courses or programs offered by the institution
31 of higher education.

32 (b) The course sections and programs offered as running start
33 courses must also be open for registration to matriculated students
34 at the participating institution of higher education and may not be a
35 course consisting solely of high school students offered at a high
36 school campus.

37 (c) A student receiving home-based instruction enrolling in a
38 public high school for the sole purpose of participating in courses
39 or programs offered by institutions of higher education shall not be

1 counted by the school district in any required state or federal
2 accountability reporting if the student's parents or guardians filed
3 a declaration of intent to provide home-based instruction and the
4 student received home-based instruction during the school year before
5 the school year in which the student intends to participate in
6 courses or programs offered by the institution of higher education.
7 Students receiving home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW
8 and students attending private schools approved under chapter 28A.195
9 RCW shall not be required to meet the student learning goals or to
10 learn the state learning standards. However, students are eligible to
11 enroll in courses or programs in participating universities only if
12 the board of directors of the student's school district has decided
13 to participate in the program. Participating institutions of higher
14 education, in consultation with school districts, may establish
15 admission standards for these students. If the institution of higher
16 education accepts a secondary school pupil for enrollment under this
17 section, the institution of higher education shall send written
18 notice to the pupil and the pupil's school district within ten days
19 of acceptance. The notice shall indicate the course and hours of
20 enrollment for that pupil.

21 (2) (a) In lieu of tuition and fees, as defined in RCW 28B.15.020
22 and 28B.15.041:

23 (i) Running start students shall pay to the community or
24 technical college all other mandatory fees as established by each
25 community or technical college and, in addition, the state board for
26 community and technical colleges may authorize a fee of up to ten
27 percent of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and
28 28B.15.041; and

29 (ii) All other institutions of higher education operating a
30 running start program may charge running start students a fee of up
31 to ten percent of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and
32 28B.15.041 in addition to technology fees.

33 (b) The fees charged under this subsection (2) shall be prorated
34 based on credit load.

35 (c) Students may pay fees under this subsection with advanced
36 college tuition payment program tuition units at a rate set by the
37 advanced college tuition payment program governing body under chapter
38 28B.95 RCW.

39 (3) (a) The institutions of higher education must make available
40 fee waivers for low-income running start students. A student shall be

1 considered low income and eligible for a fee waiver upon proof that
2 the student is currently qualified to receive free or reduced-price
3 lunch. Acceptable documentation of low-income status may also
4 include, but is not limited to, documentation that a student has been
5 deemed eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in the last five
6 years, or other criteria established in the institution's policy.

7 (b) (i) By the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, school
8 districts, upon knowledge of a low-income student's enrollment in
9 running start, must provide documentation of the student's low-income
10 status, under (a) of this subsection, directly to institutions of
11 higher education.

12 (ii) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
13 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
14 instruction, in consultation with the Washington student achievement
15 council, shall develop a centralized process for school districts to
16 provide students' low-income status to institutions of higher
17 education to meet the requirements of (b) (i) of this subsection.

18 (c) Institutions of higher education, in collaboration with
19 relevant student associations, shall aim to have students who can
20 benefit from fee waivers take advantage of these waivers.
21 Institutions shall make every effort to communicate to students and
22 their families the benefits of the waivers and provide assistance to
23 students and their families on how to apply. Information about
24 waivers shall, to the greatest extent possible, be incorporated into
25 financial aid counseling, admission information, and individual
26 billing statements. Institutions also shall, to the greatest extent
27 possible, use all means of communication, including but not limited
28 to web sites, online catalogues, admission and registration forms,
29 mass email messaging, social media, and outside marketing to ensure
30 that information about waivers is visible, compelling, and reaches
31 the maximum number of students and families that can benefit.

32 (4) The pupil's school district shall transmit to the institution
33 of higher education an amount per each full-time equivalent college
34 student at statewide uniform rates for vocational and nonvocational
35 students. The superintendent of public instruction shall separately
36 calculate and allocate moneys appropriated for basic education under
37 RCW 28A.150.260 to school districts for purposes of making such
38 payments and for granting school districts seven percent thereof to
39 offset program related costs. The calculations and allocations shall
40 be based upon the estimated statewide annual average per full-time

1 equivalent high school student allocations under RCW 28A.150.260,
2 excluding small high school enhancements, and applicable rules
3 adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW. The superintendent of public
4 instruction, participating institutions of higher education, and the
5 state board for community and technical colleges shall consult on the
6 calculation and distribution of the funds. The funds received by the
7 institution of higher education from the school district shall not be
8 deemed tuition or operating fees and may be retained by the
9 institution of higher education. A student enrolled under this
10 subsection shall be counted for the purpose of meeting enrollment
11 targets in accordance with terms and conditions specified in the
12 omnibus appropriations act.

13 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28A.600.330 and 1994 c 205 s 4 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) A pupil who enrolls in an institution of higher education in
16 grade eleven may not enroll in postsecondary courses under RCW
17 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.390 for high school credit and
18 postsecondary credit for more than the equivalent of the coursework
19 for two academic years. A pupil who first enrolls in an institution
20 of higher education in grade twelve may not enroll in postsecondary
21 courses under this section for high school credit and postsecondary
22 credit for more than the equivalent of the coursework for one
23 academic year.

24 (2) The credit limitations in this section do not apply to
25 students participating in the bridge year program created in section
26 2 of this act.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act expires July 31, 2023.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate
29 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
30 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
31 effect immediately."

32 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Makes numerous changes to the bridge year pilot program
established in the underlying bill, including:

(1) Making students who have not met graduation requirements (in
addition to those that have) eligible to participate in the program;

(2) Transferring administration of the program and associated rulemaking authority from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to the State Board of Education (SBE);

(3) Requiring the development of a high school and beyond plan addendum for each student participating in the program, and prescribing related duties for program liaisons;

(4) Requiring each public school and school district that applied to the SBE for authorization to grant individual student emergency waivers under Engrossed House Bill No. (EHB) 1121 to offer the program to students of the applicable public school or school district in the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022;

(5) Removing mandatory age, course, grade point average, and individual learning plan requirements for participating students;

(6) Modifies student eligibility provisions for interscholastic and extracurricular activities by specifying that students who participate in the program shall be, for purposes of eligibility for activities sanctioned by the WIAA and extracurricular activities, considered in their fourth year of eligibility after entering the ninth grade;

(7) Requires schools and school districts participating in the program to expunge marks or grades, instead of only "D" or "F" grades or equivalents, from a participating student's transcript if the student completes the course with a higher mark or grade during their bridge year;

(8) Specifying that, for funding purposes, students in the program who enroll in Running Start courses count as Running Start students only for time spent in Running Start courses;

(9) Establishing reporting requirements for the SBE and associated data collection requirements for the OSPI;

(10) Adding intent language; and

(11) Removing references to "pilot."

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