

SB 5299 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Education

ADOPTED 04/05/2021

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

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.300 and 2019 c 180 s 2 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Beginning no later than the 2022-23 school year, each school  
6 district that operates a high school must, at a minimum, provide an  
7 opportunity to access an elective computer science course that is  
8 available to all high school students. School districts are  
9 encouraged to consider community-based or public-private partnerships  
10 in establishing and administering a course, but any course offered in  
11 accordance with this section must be aligned to the state learning  
12 standards for computer science or mathematics.

13 (2) In accordance with the requirements of this section,  
14 beginning in the 2019-20 school year, school districts may award  
15 academic credit for computer science to students based on student  
16 completion of a competency examination that is aligned with the state  
17 learning standards for computer science or mathematics and course  
18 equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the superintendent  
19 of public instruction to implement this section. Each school district  
20 board of directors in districts that award credit under this  
21 subsection shall develop a written policy for awarding such credit  
22 that includes:

- 23 (a) A course equivalency approval procedure;  
24 (b) Procedures for awarding competency-based credit for skills  
25 learned partially or wholly outside of a course; and  
26 (c) An approval process for computer science courses taken before  
27 attending high school under RCW 28A.230.090 (4) and (5).

28 (3) Prior to the use of any competency examination under this  
29 section that may be used to award academic credit to students, the  
30 office of the superintendent of public instruction must review the  
31 examination to ensure its alignment with:

1 (a) The state learning standards for computer science or  
2 mathematics; and

3 (b) Course equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the  
4 superintendent of public instruction to implement this section.

5 (4) (a) For purposes of meeting graduation requirements under RCW  
6 28A.230.090, a student may substitute a computer science course  
7 aligned to state computer science learning standards as an  
8 alternative to a third year mathematics or third year science course  
9 if:

10 (i) Prior to the substitution, the school counselor provides the  
11 student and the student's parent or guardian with written  
12 notification of the consequences of the substitution on postsecondary  
13 opportunities;

14 (ii) The student, the student's parent or guardian, and the  
15 student's school counselor or principal agree to the substitution;  
16 and

17 (iii) The substitution is aligned with the student's high school  
18 and beyond plan.

19 (b) A substitution permitted under this subsection (4) may only  
20 be used once per student.

21 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2020 c 307 s 6 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school  
24 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as  
25 provided in RCW 28A.230.122 and 28A.655.250 and except those  
26 equivalencies established by local high schools or school districts  
27 under RCW 28A.230.097. The purpose of a high school diploma is to  
28 declare that a student is ready for success in postsecondary  
29 education, gainful employment, and citizenship, and is equipped with  
30 the skills to be a lifelong learner.

31 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to  
32 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including  
33 information on the culture, history, and government of the American  
34 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

35 (b) Except as provided otherwise in this subsection, the  
36 certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW  
37 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements  
38 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high  
39 school but are not the only requirements for graduation. The

1 requirement to earn a certificate of academic achievement to qualify  
2 for graduation from a public high school concludes with the  
3 graduating class of 2019. The obligation of qualifying students to  
4 earn a certificate of individual achievement as a prerequisite for  
5 graduation from a public high school concludes with the graduating  
6 class of 2021.

7 (c)(i) Each student must have a high school and beyond plan to  
8 guide the student's high school experience and inform course taking  
9 that is aligned with the student's goals for education or training  
10 and career after high school.

11 (ii)(A) A high school and beyond plan must be initiated for each  
12 student during the seventh or eighth grade. In preparation for  
13 initiating that plan, each student must first be administered a  
14 career interest and skills inventory.

15 (B) For students with an individualized education program, the  
16 high school and beyond plan must be developed in alignment with their  
17 individualized education program. The high school and beyond plan  
18 must be developed in a similar manner and with similar school  
19 personnel as for all other students.

20 (iii)(A) The high school and beyond plan must be updated to  
21 reflect high school assessment results in RCW 28A.655.070(3)(b) and  
22 to review transcripts, assess progress toward identified goals, and  
23 revised as necessary for changing interests, goals, and needs. The  
24 plan must identify available interventions and academic support,  
25 courses, or both, that are designed for students who are not on track  
26 to graduate, to enable them to fulfill high school graduation  
27 requirements. Each student's high school and beyond plan must be  
28 updated to inform junior year course taking.

29 (B) For students with an individualized education program, the  
30 high school and beyond plan must be updated in alignment with their  
31 school to postschool transition plan. The high school and beyond plan  
32 must be updated in a similar manner and with similar school personnel  
33 as for all other students.

34 (iv) School districts are encouraged to involve parents and  
35 guardians in the process of developing and updating the high school  
36 and beyond plan, and the plan must be provided to the students'  
37 parents or guardians in their native language if that language is one  
38 of the two most frequently spoken non-English languages of students  
39 in the district. Nothing in this subsection (1)(c)(iv) prevents  
40 districts from providing high school and beyond plans to parents and

1 guardians in additional languages that are not required by this  
2 subsection.

3 (v) All high school and beyond plans must, at a minimum, include  
4 the following elements:

5 (A) Identification of career goals, aided by a skills and  
6 interest assessment;

7 (B) Identification of educational goals;

8 (C) Identification of dual credit programs and the opportunities  
9 they create for students, including eligibility for automatic  
10 enrollment in advanced classes under RCW 28A.320.195, career and  
11 technical education programs, running start programs, AP courses,  
12 international baccalaureate programs, and college in the high school  
13 programs;

14 (D) Information about the college bound scholarship program  
15 established in chapter 28B.118 RCW;

16 (E) A four-year plan for course taking that:

17 (I) Includes information about options for satisfying state and  
18 local graduation requirements;

19 (II) Satisfies state and local graduation requirements;

20 (III) Aligns with the student's secondary and postsecondary  
21 goals, which can include education, training, and career;

22 (IV) Identifies course sequences to inform academic acceleration,  
23 as described in RCW 28A.320.195 that include dual credit courses or  
24 programs and are aligned with the student's goals; and

25 (V) Includes information about the college bound scholarship  
26 program, the Washington college grant, and other scholarship  
27 opportunities;

28 (F) Evidence that the student has received the following  
29 information on federal and state financial aid programs that help pay  
30 for the costs of a postsecondary program:

31 (I) Information about the documentation necessary for completing  
32 the applications; application timeliness and submission deadlines;  
33 the importance of submitting applications early; information specific  
34 to students who are or have been in foster care; information specific  
35 to students who are, or are at risk of being, homeless; information  
36 specific to students whose family member or guardians will be  
37 required to provide financial and tax information necessary to  
38 complete applications; and

1 (II) Opportunities to participate in sessions that assist  
2 students and, when necessary, their family members or guardians, fill  
3 out financial aid applications; and

4 (G) By the end of the twelfth grade, a current resume or activity  
5 log that provides a written compilation of the student's education,  
6 any work experience, and any community service and how the school  
7 district has recognized the community service pursuant to RCW  
8 28A.320.193.

9 (d) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's  
10 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan  
11 shall remain at the local level. Effective with the graduating class  
12 of 2015, the state board of education may not establish a requirement  
13 for students to complete a culminating project for graduation. A  
14 district may establish additional, local requirements for a high  
15 school and beyond plan to serve the needs and interests of its  
16 students and the purposes of this section.

17 (e) (i) The state board of education shall adopt rules to  
18 implement the career and college ready graduation requirement  
19 proposal adopted under board resolution on November 10, 2010, and  
20 revised on January 9, 2014, to take effect beginning with the  
21 graduating class of 2019 or as otherwise provided in this subsection  
22 (1)(e). The rules must include authorization for a school district to  
23 waive up to two credits for individual students based on a student's  
24 circumstances, provided that none of the waived credits are  
25 identified as mandatory core credits by the state board of education.  
26 School districts must adhere to written policies authorizing the  
27 waivers that must be adopted by each board of directors of a school  
28 district that grants diplomas. The rules must also provide that the  
29 content of the third credit of mathematics and the content of the  
30 third credit of science may be chosen by the student based on the  
31 student's interests and high school and beyond plan with agreement of  
32 the student's parent or guardian or agreement of the school counselor  
33 or principal, or as provided in RCW 28A.230.300(4).

34 (ii) School districts may apply to the state board of education  
35 for a waiver to implement the career and college ready graduation  
36 requirement proposal beginning with the graduating class of 2020 or  
37 2021 instead of the graduating class of 2019. In the application, a  
38 school district must describe why the waiver is being requested, the  
39 specific impediments preventing timely implementation, and efforts  
40 that will be taken to achieve implementation with the graduating

1 class proposed under the waiver. The state board of education shall  
2 grant a waiver under this subsection (1)(e) to an applying school  
3 district at the next subsequent meeting of the board after receiving  
4 an application.

5 (iii) A school district must update the high school and beyond  
6 plans for each student who has not earned a score of level 3 or level  
7 4 on the middle school mathematics assessment identified in RCW  
8 28A.655.070 by ninth grade, to ensure that the student takes a  
9 mathematics course in both ninth and tenth grades. This course may  
10 include career and technical education equivalencies in mathematics  
11 adopted pursuant to RCW 28A.230.097.

12 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state  
13 board of education to establish and enforce minimum high school  
14 graduation requirements, the state board shall periodically  
15 reevaluate the graduation requirements and shall report such findings  
16 to the legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state  
17 board.

18 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements  
19 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career  
20 and technical education programs, particularly those programs that  
21 lead to a certificate or credential that is state or nationally  
22 recognized. The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students  
23 enrolled in these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a  
24 certificate of academic achievement, complete the program and earn  
25 the program's certificate or credential, and complete other state and  
26 local graduation requirements.

27 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the  
28 high school graduation requirements to the education committees of  
29 the legislature for review. The legislature shall have the  
30 opportunity to act during a regular legislative session before the  
31 changes are adopted through administrative rule by the state board.  
32 Changes that have a fiscal impact on school districts, as identified  
33 by a fiscal analysis prepared by the office of the superintendent of  
34 public instruction, shall take effect only if formally authorized and  
35 funded by the legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or  
36 other enacted legislation.

37 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages  
38 other than English established by the state board of education or a  
39 local school district, or both, for purposes of high school  
40 graduation, students who receive instruction in American sign

1 language or one or more American Indian languages shall be considered  
2 to have satisfied the state or local school district graduation  
3 requirement for instruction in one or more languages other than  
4 English.

5 (4) Unless requested otherwise by the student and the student's  
6 family, a student who has completed high school courses before  
7 attending high school shall be given high school credit which shall  
8 be applied to fulfilling high school graduation requirements if:

9 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the  
10 academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and  
11 eighth grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by  
12 completing the same course requirements and examinations as the high  
13 school students enrolled in the class; or

14 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for  
15 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for  
16 high school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a  
17 course offered at a high school in the district as determined by the  
18 school district board of directors.

19 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high  
20 school courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this  
21 section shall not be required to take an additional competency  
22 examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive  
23 credit.

24 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three  
25 semester hours equals one high school credit."

26 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Requires written notification of the consequences of  
the substitution of a computer science course for a third year  
mathematics or science course for the purposes of graduation  
requirements;

(2) Requires agreement of the student, the parent or guardian,  
and the counselor or principal, rather than the parent or guardian or  
the counselor or principal;

(3) Specifies that a student may only use the permitted  
substitution only once;

(4) Refers to "a computer science course aligned to state  
computer science learning standards" rather than "an approved  
computer science course;" and

(5) Adds a cross reference to the substitution policy in the statute governing graduation requirements.

--- END ---