
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1285

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Rude, Stonier, Lekanoff, Doglio, Couture, Connors, Berry, Bronoske, Leavitt, Ryu, Davis, Barkis, Orcutt, Jacobsen, Goodman, Walsh, Steele, Paul, Tharinger, Klicker, Nance, Eslick, Taylor, Caldier, Parshley, Keaton, Ley, Timmons, Pollet, Fey, Simmons, and Hill)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to making financial education instruction a
2 graduation requirement in public schools; amending RCW 28A.300.468;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW; creating new sections;
4 and providing expiration dates.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that acquiring
7 and applying a basic knowledge of personal finance is critical to the
8 economic well-being of all adults. Without this knowledge, persons
9 are much less well-equipped to navigate the complicated financial
10 issues of modern life, including household budgets, consumer debt,
11 loan applications and obligations, and successful retirement
12 planning.

13 The legislature also recognizes that it has taken meaningful
14 steps to support financial education instruction in public schools,
15 including establishing the financial education public-private
16 partnership in 2004, adopting financial education learning standards
17 in 2015, and providing funds in 2022 for financial education
18 professional development for certificated staff.

19 In recognition of the relevance and importance of personal
20 finance knowledge, the ongoing efforts of the financial education
21 public-private partnership, and the ability of public schools to

1 teach or continue teaching financial education instruction, the
2 legislature intends to ensure that all Washington students are
3 provided financial education instruction. Therefore, the legislature
4 intends to make financial education instruction a graduation
5 requirement for public schools.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.300.468 and 2015 c 211 s 4 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) After consulting with the financial education public-private
9 partnership, the office of the superintendent of public instruction
10 shall make available to all school districts a list of instructional
11 materials that align with the financial education standards
12 (~~integrated into the state learning standards pursuant to RCW~~
13 ~~28A.300.460(2)(d))~~ adopted in RCW 28A.300.469.

14 (2) School districts, through the end of the 2027-28 school year,
15 shall provide all students in grades nine through (~~twelve~~) 12 the
16 opportunity to access the financial education standards, whether
17 through a regularly scheduled class period; before or after school;
18 during lunch periods; at library and study time; at home; via online
19 learning opportunities; through career and technical education course
20 equivalencies; or other opportunities. School districts shall
21 publicize the availability of financial education opportunities to
22 students and their families. School districts are encouraged to grant
23 credit toward high school graduation to students who successfully
24 complete financial education courses.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1)(a) Beginning in or before the 2027-28 school year, each
28 school district that operates a high school shall provide all high
29 school students with instruction in the state financial education
30 learning standards adopted in RCW 28A.300.469.

31 (b) Beginning no later than the 2027-28 school year, school
32 districts shall publicize the offering of financial education
33 instruction, and the associated graduation requirement, to students
34 and their parents or legal guardians.

35 (2)(a) Beginning with the graduating class of 2031, each student
36 must meet the high school state financial education learning
37 standards adopted in RCW 28A.300.469 to graduate from high school.

1 (b) Students in grade 12 who have not been able to meet the
2 graduation requirement in (a) of this subsection (2) because of
3 previous residence outside the state may have this requirement waived
4 by their principal. Waivers provided in accordance with this
5 subsection (2)(b) may only be issued on an individual basis.

6 (3)(a) The state board of education shall review and monitor
7 financial education offerings to ensure school district compliance
8 with the requirements of subsection (1)(a) of this section. The
9 reviews and monitoring required by this subsection (3) may be
10 conducted concurrently with other oversight and monitoring conducted
11 by the state board of education.

12 (b) The state board of education, in accordance with RCW
13 43.01.036, shall provide a summary of the information collected under
14 this subsection (3) for school years 2027-28 and 2028-29 to the
15 appropriate committees of the legislature by January 10, 2030.

16 (4) Nothing in this section is intended to modify or otherwise
17 effect school district requirements adopted prior to January 1, 2025,
18 that obligate graduating students to meet requirements for financial
19 education instruction that are consistent with the state financial
20 education learning standards adopted in RCW 28A.300.469.

21 (5) This section governs school operation and management under
22 RCW 28A.710.040 and 28A.715.020, and applies to charter schools
23 established under chapter 28A.710 RCW and state-tribal education
24 compact schools subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW to the same extent as
25 it applies to school districts.

26 (6) Actions of the charter school commission performed in
27 accordance with this section must be completed within existing funds.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The financial education public-private
29 partnership shall create a statewide implementation plan for the
30 graduation requirement in section 3 of this act. The implementation
31 plan may include recommendations for additional funding for grants to
32 integrate financial literacy education into professional development
33 for certificated staff, and must be submitted by December 31, 2026,
34 to the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state
35 board of education, and in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, the
36 appropriate committees of the legislature.

37 (2) This section expires August 1, 2027.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) The state board of education shall
2 recommend adjustments to graduation requirements and other education
3 offerings to ensure that students have adequate opportunities to meet
4 the graduation requirement in section 3 of this act. In developing
5 the recommendations, the state board shall:

6 (a) Consult with the financial education public-private
7 partnership established in RCW 28A.300.450, students, parents and
8 legal guardians, educators, K-12 education partners, postsecondary
9 partners, employers, and community members; and

10 (b) Consider how to incorporate the graduation requirement in
11 section 3 of this act into the framework of graduation requirements,
12 including consideration of credit options and competency-based
13 options.

14 (2) The state board of education shall, in accordance with RCW
15 43.01.036, report its recommendations to the governor and the
16 education committees of the legislature by December 31, 2026.

17 (3) For purposes of fiscal efficiency, consultations conducted in
18 accordance with this section must be conducted concurrently with
19 other actions of the state board of education that are related to
20 graduation requirements and were initiated prior to March 1, 2025.

21 (4) This section expires August 1, 2027.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of
23 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
24 provided by June 30, 2025, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
25 act is null and void.

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