
HOUSE BILL 1557

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Reed, Salahuddin, Scott, Morgan, Street, Ramel, Walen, Macri, Berry, Obras, Bernbaum, Fosse, Mena, Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, Lekanoff, Duerr, Ryu, Leavitt, Gregerson, Parshley, Kloba, Goodman, Peterson, Zahn, Pollet, and Doglio

Read first time 01/23/25. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

1 AN ACT Relating to making higher education more accessible by
2 establishing the Washington guaranteed admissions program and
3 requiring student notifications; adding a new section to chapter
4 28B.10 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28A.150 RCW; and creating
5 a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that engaging with
8 high school students to prepare them for higher education and
9 familiarize them with college admissions through guaranteed
10 admissions increases equity, access, and credential completion in the
11 state. The legislature intends to establish the Washington guaranteed
12 admissions program as an appropriate and necessary step to accomplish
13 these goals.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
15 RCW to read as follows:

- 16 (1) The Washington guaranteed admissions program is established.
17 (2)(a) The regional universities, the state college, at least one
18 campus of each state university, and tribal institutions of higher
19 education operated by an Indian tribe as defined in RCW 43.376.010

1 shall participate in the Washington guaranteed admissions program
2 beginning in the 2026-27 academic year.

3 (b) Institutions in (a) of this subsection may opt out of the
4 Washington guaranteed admissions program by reporting to the
5 legislature, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, the following:

6 (i) The reason for opting out; and

7 (ii) A detailed overview of other initiatives for improving
8 admissions and expanding access to the institution for resident
9 students.

10 (3) Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, participating
11 institutions shall simplify and streamline the general admissions
12 application form requiring only necessary information for students.

13 (4) Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, an organization
14 representing the presidents of the public four-year institutions of
15 higher education shall consult with the student achievement council
16 and the state board for community and technical colleges in
17 determining eligibility criteria for the Washington guaranteed
18 admissions program and annually reviewing the eligibility criteria.

19 (5) Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, the Washington
20 school information processing cooperative shall collect and transmit
21 the data of students in grades 11 and 12 who meet the criteria
22 determined in subsection (4) of this section to an organization
23 representing the presidents of the public four-year institutions of
24 higher education, which shall hold and make the information available
25 to participating institutions for the purpose of guaranteeing
26 admission to qualified applicants in accordance with this section.

27 (6) By December 10, 2027, and each year thereafter until December
28 31, 2032, an organization representing the presidents of the public
29 four-year institutions of higher education shall submit a report on
30 the Washington guaranteed admissions program to the appropriate
31 committees of the legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036. The
32 report must include the following information from the prior academic
33 year:

34 (a) Eligibility criteria and changes made to the Washington
35 guaranteed admissions program;

36 (b) The number of students offered admission by each
37 participating institution disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender,
38 Title I status of the high school attended, and economic status;

39 (c) The postsecondary enrollment rates of students offered
40 guaranteed admissions by each participating institution disaggregated

1 by race, ethnicity, gender, Title I status of the high school
2 attended, and economic status;

3 (d) The postsecondary application and enrollment rates of
4 students who are offered guaranteed admissions within 0.2 grade point
5 average of the eligibility cutoff disaggregated by institution, race,
6 ethnicity, gender, Title I status of the high school attended, and
7 economic status; and

8 (e) The postsecondary application and enrollment rates of
9 students who are not offered guaranteed admissions because their
10 grade point average is below the eligibility cutoff by 0.2 grade
11 point average or less, disaggregated by institution, race, ethnicity,
12 gender, Title I status of the high school attended, and economic
13 status.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) By January 1, 2026, each school district, charter school,
17 state-tribal education compact school, and institutional education
18 provider with students in grade 11 or 12 shall enter into a data-
19 sharing agreement with each participating institution in the
20 Washington guaranteed admissions program established in section 2 of
21 this act or the Washington school information processing cooperative
22 to facilitate the transfer of data of students in grades 11 and 12
23 who meet the criteria determined pursuant to section 2(4) of this
24 act. Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, school districts,
25 charter schools, state-tribal education compact schools, and
26 institutional education providers shall work with the Washington
27 school information processing cooperative and participating
28 institutions through an organization representing the presidents of
29 the public four-year institutions of higher education to facilitate
30 the transfer of data required under this subsection.

31 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
32 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

33 (a) "Charter school" means a school established under chapter
34 28A.710 RCW.

35 (b) "Institutional education provider" has the same meaning as in
36 RCW 28A.190.005.

37 (c) "Participating institutions" are those that have not opted
38 out of the program and includes the regional universities, the state
39 college, at least one campus of each state university, and tribal

1 institutions of higher education operated by an Indian tribe as
2 defined in RCW 43.376.010.

3 (d) "State-tribal education compact school" means a school
4 subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The student achievement council shall collaborate with the
8 office of the superintendent of public instruction, an organization
9 representing the presidents of the public four-year institutions of
10 higher education, the state board for community and technical
11 colleges, educational service districts, the Washington school
12 information processing cooperative, and the Washington school
13 counselor association to create a notice providing information about
14 the following programs or initiatives, including definitions and
15 eligibility criteria:

16 (a) The Washington guaranteed admissions program established in
17 section 2 of this act;

18 (b) The Washington college grant program created in RCW
19 28B.92.200;

20 (c) Dual credit programs as defined in RCW 28A.600.280;

21 (d) Career and technical education programs;

22 (e) Associate degrees and certificates;

23 (f) The free application for federal student aid; and

24 (g) The Washington application for state financial aid.

25 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
26 work with the student achievement council to disseminate the notice
27 created in subsection (1) of this section to each school district,
28 charter school, state-tribal education compact school, and
29 institutional education provider with students in grades nine through
30 12.

31 (3)(a) Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, each school
32 district, charter school, state-tribal education compact school, and
33 institutional education provider with students in grades nine through
34 12 shall:

35 (i) Disseminate the notice created in subsection (1) of this
36 section to students in grades nine through 12 and their parents or
37 guardians at the beginning of the school year, but no later than
38 November of each school year. The notice may be disseminated
39 electronically; and

1 (ii) Designate a staff member or create a virtual resource for
2 students to learn more about the information contained in the notice
3 created in subsection (1) of this section.

4 (b) Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, each school district,
5 charter school, state-tribal education compact school, and
6 institutional education provider with students in grade 11 or 12
7 shall:

8 (i) Collaborate with the Washington school information processing
9 cooperative and participating public four-year institutions of higher
10 education through an organization representing the presidents of the
11 public four-year institutions of higher education to create a
12 notification about the Washington guaranteed admissions program
13 established in section 2 of this act and general admissions. The
14 notification must provide a parent or guardian of a student in grades
15 nine through 12 with an opportunity to opt the student out of the
16 Washington guaranteed admissions program; and

17 (ii) Disseminate the notice created in (b)(i) of this subsection
18 to students in grades 11 and 12 and their parents or guardians.

19 (4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
20 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

21 (a) "Charter school" means a school established under chapter
22 28A.710 RCW.

23 (b) "Institutional education provider" has the same meaning as in
24 RCW 28A.190.005.

25 (c) "State-tribal education compact school" means a school
26 subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW.

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