
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1565

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Paul, Pollet, Ramel, Reed, Santos, Doglio, and Fosse)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to the Washington dual enrollment scholarship;
2 amending RCW 28B.76.730, 43.131.427, and 43.131.428; creating a new
3 section; and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) The legislature recognizes the
6 significant benefits of dual enrollment programs like running start,
7 which allow high school students to earn college and high school
8 credit simultaneously. A 2024 research brief from the education
9 research and data center highlights that students who participate in
10 running start complete associate and bachelor's degrees faster and
11 with fewer average credits compared to the statewide average and
12 other dual credit programs.

13 (b) The legislature acknowledges that, while running start allows
14 11th and 12th graders the opportunity to attend in-person and online
15 classes at community colleges and some universities without the
16 burden of tuition costs, expenses such as textbooks, transportation,
17 and class materials continue to create barriers to program
18 participation.

19 (2) The legislature recognizes that it created the Washington
20 dual enrollment scholarship pilot program in 2019 to remove financial
21 barriers for running start students at 13 pilot sites. In accordance

1 with the sunset act, the joint legislative audit and review committee
2 reviewed the program and made the following recommendations: (a) The
3 legislature should continue the dual enrollment scholarship; and (b)
4 the program administrator, the Washington student achievement
5 council, should provide consistent and documented guidance and
6 technical assistance to pilot sites and improve its oversight. The
7 legislature admits that the program ends in 2025 unless reauthorized.

8 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to: (a) Continue the dual
9 enrollment scholarship program and make it available to all running
10 start students; (b) direct the Washington student achievement council
11 to both adopt rules to implement the program and to develop guidance
12 and technical assistance for the program; and (c) expand the uses of
13 the scholarship award.

14 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.76.730 and 2023 c 314 s 3 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) The legislature recognizes that dual credit programs reduce
17 both the cost and time of attendance to obtain a postsecondary
18 degree. The legislature intends to reduce barriers and increase
19 access to postsecondary educational opportunities for low-income
20 students by removing the financial barriers for dual enrollment
21 programs for students.

22 (2) The office, in consultation with the participating
23 institutions of higher education and the office of the superintendent
24 of public instruction, shall ~~((create))~~ establish and administer the
25 Washington dual enrollment scholarship ~~((pilot))~~ program. ~~((The~~
26 ~~office shall administer the Washington dual enrollment scholarship~~
27 ~~pilot program and may adopt rules as necessary.))~~

28 (3) Eligible students are those who meet the following
29 requirements:

30 (a) Qualify for the free or reduced-price lunch program, food
31 benefits under Title 74 RCW, the college bound scholarship, or the
32 Washington college grant. Eligibility for these programs must be
33 established through attestation or other means established by the
34 office; and

35 (b) ~~((Are enrolled in one or more dual credit programs, as~~
36 ~~defined in RCW 28B.15.821, such as running start; and~~

37 ~~(c) Have at least a 2.0 grade point average))~~ Are enrolled in the
38 running start program as defined in RCW 28A.600.300.

1 (4) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
2 specific purpose, (~~beginning with the 2019-20 academic year,~~) the
3 office (~~may~~) shall award scholarships to eligible students. The
4 scholarship award must be as follows for eligible students enrolled
5 in running start:

6 (a) Mandatory fees, as defined in RCW 28A.600.310(~~(+2)~~) (7),
7 prorated based on credit load;

8 (b) Course fees or laboratory fees as determined appropriate by
9 college or university policies to pay for specified course related
10 costs;

11 (c) A (~~textbook~~) voucher for required course books, materials,
12 and supplies to be used at the participating institution of higher
13 education's bookstore (~~where the student is enrolled. For every~~
14 ~~credit per quarter the student is enrolled, the student shall receive~~
15 ~~a textbook voucher for ten dollars, up to a maximum of fifteen~~
16 ~~credits per quarter, or the equivalent, per year; and~~

17 ~~(d) Apprenticeship~~). The amount of the voucher must be
18 determined by the office, in consultation with the state board for
19 community and technical colleges and participating four-year
20 institutions of higher education, based on the cost of course books,
21 materials, and supplies and the total level of funding requests;

22 (d) Professional technical program, preapprenticeship program, or
23 apprenticeship program materials as determined appropriate by the
24 college or university to pay for specific course-related material
25 costs, which may include occupation-specific tools, work clothes,
26 rain gear, or boots; and

27 (e) If sufficient funding is available after the costs in (a)
28 through (d) of this subsection are covered, a basic needs stipend for
29 food and transportation. The amount of the stipend must be determined
30 by the office, in consultation with the state board for community and
31 technical colleges and participating four-year institutions of higher
32 education. The participating institution of higher education must
33 report to the office the basic needs category for which the stipend
34 was used.

35 (5) The Washington dual enrollment scholarship (~~pilot~~) program
36 must apply after the fee waivers for low-income students under RCW
37 28A.600.310 are provided for.

38 (6) (a) By January 1, 2026, the office shall adopt rules in
39 accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW to implement the Washington dual
40 enrollment scholarship program. At a minimum, the rules must include

1 requirements for grade point average, income eligibility, and allowed
2 costs and expenses.

3 (b) To support scholarship utilization, cost and expense
4 invoicing, and implementation of the rules, the office shall develop
5 and periodically update guidance and other technical assistance,
6 which must be made available to the participating institutions of
7 higher education.

8 (7) Each participating institution of higher education must
9 provide eligible students with access to the maximum scholarship
10 awards by accurately tracking costs and expenses, adhering to program
11 rules, following established guidelines, and making use of available
12 technical assistance.

13 (8) Annually by October 30th, and in accordance with RCW
14 43.01.036, the office shall report to the appropriate committees of
15 the legislature with a summary of the amounts and purposes, including
16 basic needs category, for which scholarships were awarded under
17 subsection (4) of this section.

18 (9) As used in this section, "participating institution of higher
19 education" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.600.300.

20 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The sum of \$750,000, or as much thereof as
21 may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30,
22 2026, and \$750,000, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is
23 appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, from the
24 general fund to the office of student financial assistance provided
25 solely for the Washington dual enrollment scholarship.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 43.131.427 and 2019 c 176 s 3 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 The Washington dual enrollment scholarship pilot program is
29 terminated July 1, ((2025)) 2032, as provided in RCW 43.131.428.

30 **Sec. 5.** RCW 43.131.428 and 2019 c 176 s 4 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 The following acts or parts of acts, as now existing or hereafter
33 amended, are each repealed, effective July 1, ((2026)) 2033:

34 RCW 28B.76.730 and 2025 c ... s 2 (section 2 of this act), 2023 c
35 314 s 3, 2021 c 71 s 6, 2020 c 259 s 1, & 2019 c 176 s 1.

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