
SENATE BILL 6533

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senators Roach and Gordon

Read first time 01/15/10. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to granting high school credit for learning
2 experiences; reenacting and amending RCW 28A.230.090; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that student
6 learning experiences are enhanced through many activities selected by
7 students and parents outside the classroom environment. The
8 legislature finds that recognizing the value of these educational
9 activities through awarding high school physical education, visual and
10 performing arts, and elective credits for participation in these
11 activities will help encourage parental involvement in their
12 children's education, improve student learning through encouraging
13 students to take advantage of a broader variety of educational
14 opportunities, and provide students with the time to take additional
15 academic courses during the school day.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2009 c 548 s 111 and 2009 c 223 s 2
17 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

18 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school

1 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except those
2 equivalencies established by local high schools or school districts
3 under RCW 28A.230.097. The purpose of a high school diploma is to
4 declare that a student is ready for success in postsecondary education,
5 gainful employment, and citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to
6 be a lifelong learner.

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

11 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW
12 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements
13 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
14 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

15 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's
16 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan
17 shall remain at the local level.

18 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board
19 of education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
20 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
21 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
22 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

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

32 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the high
33 school graduation requirements to the education committees of the
34 legislature for review and to the quality education council established
35 under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the opportunity to
36 act during a regular legislative session before the changes are adopted
37 through administrative rule by the state board. Changes that have a
38 fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis

1 prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
2 shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the
3 legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted
4 legislation.

5 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other
6 than English established by the state board of education or a local
7 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,
8 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or
9 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied
10 the state or local school district graduation requirement for
11 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

12 (4) The state board of education shall provide by rule for high
13 school credit equivalencies for physical education, visual and
14 performing arts, and elective requirements for educational experiences
15 selected by parents and students consistent with policies adopted by
16 local school boards under section 3 of this act.

17 (5) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student
18 who has completed high school courses before attending high school
19 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling
20 high school graduation requirements if:

21 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
22 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth
23 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
24 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
25 students enrolled in the class; or

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

31 ~~((+5))~~ (6) Students who have taken and successfully completed high
32 school courses under the circumstances in subsection ~~((+4))~~ (5) of
33 this section shall not be required to take an additional competency
34 examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive
35 credit.

36 ~~((+6))~~ (7) At the college or university level, five quarter or
37 three semester hours equals one high school credit.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 A school district board of directors shall grant high school credit
4 for certain educational experiences selected by parents and students
5 consistent with the policies adopted by the school board. By
6 September 1, 2011, each school district board of directors shall adopt
7 a policy granting high school credit for certain educational
8 experiences selected by students or parents. The policy shall describe
9 the number of credits granted and the equivalencies for the district's
10 current high school graduation requirements for physical education,
11 visual and performing arts, and electives. Experiences qualifying for
12 educational credit shall include but not be limited to activities under
13 the supervision of the Washington interscholastic activities
14 association or other nonprofit voluntary entity responsible for
15 interschool extracurricular activities; other activities approved by
16 the school board and recognized by regional organizations; and other
17 activities approved by the school board.

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