
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 3129

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Schmick, Anderson, Quall, Simpson, and Ormsby)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to support for online learning for high school
2 students to earn college credit; amending RCW 28A.600.320; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that student interest
6 and participation in online learning continues to grow. At the same
7 time, the legislature, business community, and public are encouraging
8 additional programs for high school students to earn college credits.
9 Fortunately for students attending schools in rural areas, the two
10 trends can be combined to provide learning opportunities that are both
11 rigorous and accessible, and in some cases available free to the
12 student. In 2006-07, more than four thousand five hundred students
13 were able to take an online college course through the running start
14 program, which the community and technical college system makes
15 accessible statewide through its WashingtonOnline consortium. A more
16 concerted effort is needed to make schools and students aware of these
17 opportunities.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
4 compile information about online learning programs for high school
5 students to earn college credit and place the information on its web
6 site. Examples of information to be compiled and placed on the web
7 site include links to purveyors of online learning programs,
8 comparisons among various types of programs regarding costs or awarding
9 of credit, advantages and disadvantages of online learning programs,
10 and other general assistance and guidance for students, teachers, and
11 counselors in selecting and considering online learning programs. The
12 office shall use the expertise of the digital learning commons and
13 WashingtonOnline to provide assistance and suggest resources.

14 (2) High schools shall ensure that teachers and counselors have
15 information about online learning programs for high school students to
16 earn college credit and are able to assist parents and students in
17 accessing the information. High schools shall ensure that parents and
18 students have opportunities to learn about online learning programs
19 under this section.

20 (3) For the purposes of this section, online learning programs for
21 high school students to earn college credit include such programs as
22 the running start program under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400,
23 the digital learning commons, University of Washington extension,
24 WashingtonOnline, and other programs and providers that meet
25 qualifications under current laws and rules to offer courses that high
26 schools may accept for credit toward graduation requirements or that
27 offer courses generally accepted for credit by public institutions of
28 higher education in Washington.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.600.320 and 1994 c 205 s 3 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 A school district shall provide general information about the
32 program to all pupils in grades ten, eleven, and twelve and the parents
33 and guardians of those pupils, including information about the
34 opportunity to enroll in the program through online courses available
35 at community and technical colleges and other state institutions of
36 higher education. To assist the district in planning, a pupil shall

1 inform the district of the pupil's intent to enroll in courses at an
2 institution of higher education for credit. Students are responsible
3 for applying for admission to the institution of higher education.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
5 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
6 June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
7 void.

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