
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5410

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development (originally sponsored by Senators Mullet, Rivers, Palumbo, Lias, and Wilson, C.)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to a systemwide credit policy regarding advanced
2 placement, international baccalaureate, and Cambridge international
3 exams; amending RCW 28B.10.054; creating a new section; and repealing
4 RCW 28B.10.051.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that advanced
7 placement, international baccalaureate, and Cambridge assessment
8 international education coursework prepares students for
9 postsecondary success and provides opportunities for them to earn
10 college credit or secure placement in advanced courses.

11 The legislature feels strongly that students who have earned
12 minimum scores of three on advanced placement exams, four on
13 standard-level and higher-level international baccalaureate exams, or
14 scores of E or higher on Cambridge assessment international education
15 exams deserve to receive undergraduate college credit, including
16 elective credit and, where appropriate, course equivalent credit, for
17 their work.

18 The legislature finds it necessary to develop a systemwide credit
19 policy that allows those students to easily understand in advance
20 whether institutions of higher education will award them credit, as

1 well as which type of credit students will receive and the rationale
2 for the institution of higher education's determination.

3 The legislature further encourages institutions of higher
4 education to establish a policy favoring the award of course
5 equivalent credit for the successful completion of standardized and
6 commonly required courses.

7 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28B.10.054 and 2017 c 179 s 2 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) The institutions of higher education must establish a
10 coordinated, evidence-based policy for granting as many undergraduate
11 college credits, as possible and appropriate, to students who have
12 earned minimum scores of three on ((AP)) advanced placement exams
13 ((as possible and appropriate)), four on standard-level and higher-
14 level international baccalaureate exams, or scores of E or higher on
15 Cambridge assessment international education exams.

16 (2) Each institution of higher education must create a process
17 for retroactively awarding international baccalaureate exam
18 undergraduate college credits under the terms of this section to
19 students who first enrolled in the institution of higher education in
20 the 2018-19 academic year.

21 (3) Credit ~~((policy))~~ policies regarding all ((AP)) advanced
22 placement and international baccalaureate exams must be posted on
23 campus web sites effective for the ((2017)) 2019 fall academic term.
24 Credit policies regarding all Cambridge assessment international
25 education exams must be posted on campus web sites effective for the
26 2020 fall academic term. If an institution of higher education is
27 unable to award a general education course equivalency, the student
28 may request in writing an evidence-based reason as to why general
29 education course equivalency cannot be granted. Institutions of
30 higher education must maintain web sites regarding their advanced
31 placement, international baccalaureate, and Cambridge assessment
32 international education policies in a publicly accessible way. The
33 institutions of higher education must conduct biennial reviews of
34 their ((AP)) advanced placement, international baccalaureate, and
35 Cambridge assessment international education credit ((policy))
36 policies and report noncompliance to the appropriate committees of
37 the legislature by November 1st each ((year)) biennium beginning
38 November 1, 2019. The institutions of higher education must include
39 in biennial reviews data including the number and proportion of

1 students who requested and subsequently received or were denied
2 college credit by exam type, subject area, and appropriate
3 demographic information about credit recipients including transfer
4 status, race or ethnicity, and state need grant status. The purpose
5 of this data is to review equity in participation rates and success
6 rates within the advanced placement, international baccalaureate, and
7 Cambridge assessment international education programs, and
8 subsequently compare that data with similar data from the general
9 student populations of schools feeding into the programs.

10 (4) The institutions of higher education must provide an update
11 to the joint legislative audit and review committee on their credit
12 awarding policies by December 31, 2019.

13 (5) For the purposes of this section, "general education course
14 equivalency" means credit that fulfills general education or major
15 requirements and is not awarded as elective credit.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. RCW 28B.10.051 (International
17 baccalaureate and Cambridge international exams credit policies) and
18 2018 c 124 s 2 are each repealed.

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