
HOUSE BILL 1565

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representative Paul

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,
31 supplemental nutrition assistance program, the college bound
32 scholarship, or the Washington college grant. Eligibility for these
33 programs must be established through attestation or other means
34 established by the office; and

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

37 ~~(c) Have at least a 2.0 grade point average))~~.

38 (4) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
39 specific purpose, ~~((beginning with the 2019-20 academic year,))~~ the

1 office (~~may~~) shall award scholarships to eligible students. The
2 scholarship award must be as follows for eligible students enrolled
3 in running start:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (6) (a) By January 1, 2026, the office shall adopt rules in
37 accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW to implement the Washington dual
38 enrollment scholarship program. At a minimum, the rules must include
39 requirements for grade point average, income eligibility, and allowed
40 costs and expenses.

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

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

11 (8) Annually by October 30th, and in accordance with RCW
12 43.01.036, the office shall report to the appropriate committees of
13 the legislature with a summary of the amounts and purposes, including
14 basic needs category, for which scholarships were awarded under
15 subsection (4) of this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 RCW 28B.76.730 and 2025 c ... s 2 (section 2 of this act), 2023 c
33 314 s 3, 2021 c 71 s 6, 2020 c 259 s 1, & 2019 c 176 s 1.

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