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HOUSE BILL 1618

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State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representative Low

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding access to college in the high school  
2 to private school students; and amending RCW 28B.10.058 and  
3 28A.600.287.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28B.10.058 and 2023 c 314 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning on September 1, 2023, institutions of higher  
8 education must provide enrollment and registration in college in the  
9 high school courses in which a student is eligible to receive college  
10 credit available at no cost for students in the ninth, 10th, 11th, or  
11 12th grade (~~at public~~) attending high school(~~s~~).

12 (2) Beginning with the 2023-2025 omnibus operating appropriations  
13 act, the legislature must pass an omnibus operating appropriations  
14 act that appropriates to the state board of community and technical  
15 colleges and each of the public four-year institutions of higher  
16 education state funding for college in high school courses  
17 administered at public or private secondary schools.

18 (3) State appropriations for the college in the high school  
19 program to the institutions of higher education shall be calculated  
20 as follows: The total college in the high school courses administered

1 in the prior academic year, funded at \$300 per student up to a  
2 maximum rate of:

3 (a) \$6,000 per college in the high school course administered by  
4 a state university as defined in RCW 28B.10.016;

5 (b) \$5,000 per college in the high school course administered by  
6 a regional university or the state college; or

7 (c) \$3,500 per college in the high school course administered by  
8 a community or technical college.

9 (4) Beginning with fiscal year 2025 the rate per college in the  
10 high school course administered must be adjusted annually for  
11 inflation as measured by the consumer price index.

12 (5) State appropriations must be based on the total number of  
13 college in the high school courses administered by an institution of  
14 higher education for the academic year immediately prior to the  
15 current fiscal year. The state appropriation is based on course  
16 administration data submitted annually by October 15th to the office  
17 of financial management and legislative fiscal staff.

18 (6) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
19 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

20 (a) "Community or technical college" has the same meaning as  
21 provided for under RCW 28B.50.030.

22 (b) "Course" means a class taught under a contract between an  
23 institution of higher education and a single high school teacher on  
24 an articulated subject in which the student is eligible to receive  
25 college credit.

26 (c) "High school" means a public school((~~7~~)) as defined in RCW  
27 28A.150.010((~~7~~)) or a state-approved private school regulated under  
28 chapter 28A.195 RCW that serves students in any of grades nine  
29 through 12.

30 (d) "Institutions of higher education" has the same meaning as  
31 provided for under RCW 28B.10.016.

32 (e) "College in the high school" is the program created under RCW  
33 28A.600.287.

34 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.600.287 and 2023 c 314 s 2 are each amended to  
35 read as follows:

36 (1) College in the high school is a dual credit program located  
37 on a high school campus or in a high school environment in which a  
38 high school student is able to earn both high school and college  
39 credit by completing college level courses with a passing grade. A

1 college in the high school program must meet the accreditation  
2 requirements in RCW 28B.10.035 and the requirements in this section.

3 (2) A college in the high school program may include both  
4 academic and career and technical education.

5 (3) Ninth, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students, and students who  
6 have not yet received a high school diploma or its equivalent and are  
7 eligible to be in the ninth, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades, may  
8 participate in a college in the high school program.

9 (4) A college in the high school program must be governed by a  
10 local contract between an institution of higher education and a  
11 school district, charter school, ~~((or))~~ state-tribal compact school,  
12 or private school, in compliance with the rules adopted by the  
13 superintendent of public instruction under this section. The local  
14 contract must include the qualifications for students to enroll in a  
15 program course.

16 (5) Enrollment information on persons registered under this  
17 section must be maintained by the institution of higher education  
18 separately from other enrollment information and may not be included  
19 in official enrollment reports, nor may such persons be considered in  
20 any enrollment statistics that would affect higher education  
21 budgetary determinations.

22 (6) Each school district, charter school, ~~((and))~~ state-tribal  
23 compact school, and private school must award high school credit to a  
24 student enrolled in a program course if the student successfully  
25 completes the course. If no comparable course is offered by the  
26 school district, charter school, ~~((or))~~ state-tribal compact school,  
27 or private school, the chief administrator shall determine how many  
28 credits to award for the successful completion of the program course.  
29 The determination must be made in writing before the student enrolls  
30 in the program course. The awarded credit must be applied toward  
31 graduation requirements and subject area requirements. Evidence of  
32 successful completion of each program course must be included in the  
33 student's high school records and transcript.

34 (7) Each institution of higher education offering college in the  
35 high school must:

36 (a) Award college credit to a student enrolled in a program  
37 course and provide evidence of completion of each program course on  
38 the student's college transcript;

39 (b) Grant undergraduate college credit as appropriate and  
40 applicable to the student's degree requirements; and

1 (c) Provide course equivalencies for college in the high school  
2 courses and policy for awarding credit on the institution's website.

3 (8) (a) A high school that offers a college in the high school  
4 program must provide general information about the program to all  
5 students in grades eight through 12 and to the parents and guardians  
6 of those students.

7 (b) A high school that offers a college in the high school  
8 program must include the following information about program courses  
9 in a notification to parents and guardians of students in grades  
10 eight through 12, including by email and in beginning of the year  
11 packets, and in the high school catalogue or equivalent:

12 (i) There is no fee for students to enroll in a program course  
13 for high school credit or for students to enroll in a program course  
14 for both high school and college credit; and

15 (ii) A notification that enrolling in a program course for  
16 college credit automatically starts an official college transcript  
17 with the institution of higher education offering the program course  
18 regardless of student performance in the program course, and that  
19 college credit earned upon successful completion of a program course  
20 may count only as elective credit if transferred to another  
21 institution of higher education.

22 (9) Full-time and part-time faculty at institutions of higher  
23 education, including adjunct faculty, are eligible to teach program  
24 courses.

25 (10) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules  
26 for the administration of this section. The rules must be jointly  
27 developed by the superintendent of public instruction, the state  
28 board for community and technical colleges, the student achievement  
29 council, ~~((and))~~ the public baccalaureate institutions, and an  
30 organization representing the interests of private schools on agency  
31 boards and working groups and serving as the liaison organization for  
32 independent schools. The association of Washington school principals  
33 must be consulted during the rules development. The rules must  
34 outline quality and eligibility standards that are informed by  
35 nationally recognized standards or models. In addition, the rules  
36 must encourage the maximum use of the program and may not narrow or  
37 limit the enrollment options.

38 (11) (a) State universities, regional universities, and the state  
39 college, as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, offering college in the high  
40 school courses shall coordinate with an organization representing the

1 presidents of the public four-year institutions of higher education,  
2 and the community and technical colleges offering college in the high  
3 school courses shall coordinate with the state board for community  
4 and technical colleges to each prepare a report, each disaggregated  
5 by institution of higher education, that includes:

6 (i) Data about student participation rates, award of high school  
7 credit, award of postsecondary credit at an institution of higher  
8 education, academic performance, and subsequent enrollment in an  
9 institution of higher education;

10 (ii) Geographic data on college in the high school courses,  
11 including the name, number, location of courses, and student  
12 enrollment disaggregated by school districts and high schools;

13 (iii) Data on college in the high school student demographics,  
14 including race, ethnicity, gender, and receipt of free or reduced  
15 price lunch; and

16 (iv) Recommendations on additional categories of data reporting  
17 and disaggregation.

18 (b) Beginning September 1, 2024, and each year thereafter, the  
19 reports must be submitted to the appropriate committees of the  
20 legislature in accordance with RCW 43.01.036.

21 (12) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this  
22 section((~~7~~)) unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

23 (a) "Charter school" means a school established under chapter  
24 28A.710 RCW.

25 (b) "High school" means a public school((~~7~~)) as defined in RCW  
26 28A.150.010((~~7~~)) or a state-approved private school regulated under  
27 chapter 28A.195 RCW that serves students in any of grades nine  
28 through 12.

29 (c) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in  
30 RCW 28B.10.016, and also means a public tribal college located in  
31 Washington and accredited by the northwest commission on colleges and  
32 universities or another accrediting association recognized by the  
33 United States department of education.

34 (d) "Program course" means a college course offered in a high  
35 school under a college in the high school program.

36 (e) "State-tribal compact school" means a school established  
37 under chapter 28A.715 RCW.

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