
SENATE BILL 5299

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2021 Regular Session

By Senators Wellman and Kuderer

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of computer science credits for the
2 purpose of graduation requirements; and amending RCW 28A.230.300.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.300 and 2019 c 180 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Beginning no later than the 2022-23 school year, each school
7 district that operates a high school must, at a minimum, provide an
8 opportunity to access an elective computer science course that is
9 available to all high school students. School districts are
10 encouraged to consider community-based or public-private partnerships
11 in establishing and administering a course, but any course offered in
12 accordance with this section must be aligned to the state learning
13 standards for computer science or mathematics.

14 (2) In accordance with the requirements of this section,
15 beginning in the 2019-20 school year, school districts may award
16 academic credit for computer science to students based on student
17 completion of a competency examination that is aligned with the state
18 learning standards for computer science or mathematics and course
19 equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the superintendent
20 of public instruction to implement this section. Each school district
21 board of directors in districts that award credit under this

1 subsection shall develop a written policy for awarding such credit
2 that includes:

3 (a) A course equivalency approval procedure;

4 (b) Procedures for awarding competency-based credit for skills
5 learned partially or wholly outside of a course; and

6 (c) An approval process for computer science courses taken before
7 attending high school under RCW 28A.230.090 (4) and (5).

8 (3) Prior to the use of any competency examination under this
9 section that may be used to award academic credit to students, the
10 office of the superintendent of public instruction must review the
11 examination to ensure its alignment with:

12 (a) The state learning standards for computer science or
13 mathematics; and

14 (b) Course equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the
15 superintendent of public instruction to implement this section.

16 (4) (a) Upon agreement of the student's parent or guardian or
17 agreement of the school counselor or principal, a student may
18 substitute an approved computer science course for a third year
19 mathematics or science course for the purposes of graduation
20 requirements under RCW 28A.230.090.

21 (b) An approved computer science course substituted by a student
22 for a third year mathematics or science course under (a) of this
23 subsection must be aligned with the student's high school and beyond
24 plan.

--- END ---