
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5917

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2018 Regular Session

State of Washington **65th Legislature** **2017 Regular Session**

By Senators Mullet, Palumbo, Wilson, Frockt, Rolfes, and Liias

Read first time 03/31/17. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to a systemwide credit policy regarding
2 international baccalaureate and Cambridge international exams; adding
3 a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

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

9 Therefore, the legislature intends to establish a policy for
10 granting as many undergraduate course credits as possible to students
11 who have successfully completed international baccalaureate and
12 Cambridge international exams and clearly communicate credit awarding
13 policies and course equivalencies to students. This policy is
14 intended to be similar to the credit policy adopted during the 2017
15 legislative session for AP examinations. The goal of the policy is to
16 award course credit in all appropriate instances and maximize the
17 number of college students given college credit for international
18 baccalaureate exam scores and Cambridge international exam grades.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
20 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) The institutions of higher education must establish
2 coordinated evidence-based policies for granting as many
3 undergraduate college credits as possible and appropriate for general
4 education requirements or the equivalent to students who have
5 successfully completed international baccalaureate (IB) or Cambridge
6 international courses and demonstrated mastery of college-level
7 curriculum, as shown by the students' examination scores or grades
8 for those programs. The institutions shall take into account the
9 evidence for student success and the relevance of the IB or Cambridge
10 international curriculum and test scores or grades in consideration
11 of granting college credit or waiving course requirements, with
12 appropriate consideration of the institutions' degree distribution
13 requirements or curriculum for specific degree programs. Policies may
14 consider, for example:

15 (a) Whether a four on a standard-level or higher-level IB
16 examination and whether a grade of E on a Cambridge international
17 examination indicates that the student has mastered college-level
18 coursework for which undergraduate college credits may be granted;
19 and

20 (b) What test score or grade for specific subjects indicates if
21 graduation distribution requirements or prerequisite courses may be
22 waived, while preserving the integrity of the institutions' faculty
23 process for determining degree and major curriculum requirements.

24 (2) The credit policies regarding IB and Cambridge international
25 examinations must be posted on campus web sites effective for the
26 fall 2018 academic term. The institutions of higher education must
27 conduct biennial reviews of their IB and Cambridge international
28 credit policies and report noncompliance to the appropriate
29 committees of the legislature by November 1st of each year, beginning
30 November 1, 2020.

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