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SENATE BILL 6291

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senators Braun and Becker

Read first time 01/14/16. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to using weighted grade point averages for  
2 accelerated courses; amending RCW 28A.230.125; and creating a new  
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there has been  
6 significant legislative action providing opportunities for academic  
7 acceleration of students. The legislature further finds that school  
8 districts have been encouraged to adopt a policy to automatically  
9 enroll a student in the most rigorous advanced course in a subject  
10 with the objective that students eventually enroll in dual credit  
11 classes. The legislature recognizes that there are still  
12 disincentives for students to take more challenging coursework such  
13 as honors, AP, or IB courses. The legislature acknowledges that one  
14 disincentive is that the standardized high school transcript does not  
15 permit the option to use a weighted grade point average so there is  
16 no distinction between regular coursework and accelerated coursework  
17 on a transcript. The legislature intends to remove this disincentive  
18 by providing the option for school districts to use a weighted grade  
19 point average to appropriately recognize student achievement in  
20 accelerated courses.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.125 and 2014 c 102 s 3 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation  
4 with the four-year institutions as defined in RCW 28B.76.020, the  
5 state board for community and technical colleges, and the workforce  
6 training and education coordinating board, shall develop for use by  
7 all public school districts a standardized high school transcript.  
8 The superintendent shall establish clear definitions for the terms  
9 "credits" and "hours" so that school programs operating on the  
10 quarter, semester, or trimester system can be compared.

11       (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include the  
12 following:

13       (a) A notation of whether the student has earned a certificate of  
14 individual achievement or a certificate of academic achievement; and

15       (b) The option of using a weighted grade point average to  
16 recognize accelerated coursework.

17       (3) The standardized high school transcript may include a  
18 notation of whether the student has earned the Washington state seal  
19 of biliteracy established under RCW 28A.300.575.

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