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HOUSE BILL 1208

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Reykdal, Haler, Lytton, Carlyle, Seaquist, Wylie, Pollet, Jinkins, Ryu, Zeiger, Scott, Fagan, Kagi, Riccelli, Morrell, Kirby, Bergquist, Magendanz, Tarleton, Fey, and Roberts

Read first time 01/21/13. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing the digital college in the high  
2 school for high school students to earn dual credit through online  
3 courses; adding new sections to chapter 28A.630 RCW; creating a new  
4 section; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that despite  
7 increased enrollment of students in online college courses, more use  
8 could be made of the power and reach of digital technology,  
9 particularly to expand access to dual credit opportunities for students  
10 in rural areas. The legislature further finds that low-income students  
11 and students of color continue to be underrepresented in dual credit  
12 programs, due in part to the barriers imposed by cost and the lack of  
13 academic support to ensure their success.

14 (2) Therefore the legislature intends to establish a pilot project  
15 to expand free access to online college courses for high school  
16 students. The digital college in the high school is also intended to  
17 address some of the known barriers to student success in dual credit  
18 and online courses by eliminating costs for textbooks, fees, and

1 transportation; providing a simple and consistent process for  
2 application and enrollment; and assuring continued support for the  
3 student from his or her high school.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630  
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The digital college in the high school is established under  
7 this section and section 3 of this act as a pilot project for a two-  
8 year period beginning with the 2013-14 school year.

9 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the  
10 state board for community and technical colleges must establish a  
11 single online portal for eligible high school students to apply and  
12 enroll in college courses offered by community and technical colleges  
13 through the Washington online system, regardless of which college  
14 offers the course. The office of the superintendent of public  
15 instruction shall host the enrollment portal on its web site.

16 (3) The digital college in the high school is limited to courses  
17 that may be applied both toward local or state high school graduation  
18 requirements and toward distribution requirements at a four-year  
19 institution of higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 under the  
20 statewide direct transfer agreement.

21 (4) Courses may be taught by community and technical college  
22 faculty or by a high school teacher approved by a community or  
23 technical college to be the course instructor on behalf of a college  
24 using the Washington online system.

25 (5) The state board for community and technical colleges, in  
26 consultation with the colleges, must establish a common admission  
27 standard for students enrolling in the digital college in the high  
28 school. The standard may be based on one or more readily available  
29 placement tests but must be the same regardless of which college offers  
30 the course. The enrollment portal for the pilot project must contain  
31 information about how students may access the placement tests.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630  
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 (1) Eleventh and twelfth grade students or students who have not  
35 yet received the credits required for the award of a high school  
36 diploma and are eligible to be in the eleventh or twelfth grades may

1 apply to enroll in courses offered through the digital college in the  
2 high school. However, students are eligible to enroll in program  
3 courses only if the board of directors of the student's school district  
4 has decided to participate in the pilot project. If a student is  
5 accepted to enroll in a college course under the pilot project, the  
6 office of the superintendent of public instruction, via the online  
7 enrollment portal, must send an electronic notice to the student's  
8 school district indicating the course information, including the  
9 college offering the course, course hours and credits, and contact  
10 information for the course instructor.

11 (2) Students may not be required to pay any tuition and fees for  
12 courses in the digital college in the high school, or any other fees  
13 charged by community and technical colleges. Costs for textbooks and  
14 materials must be paid using the reimbursement system under subsection  
15 (3) of this section.

16 (3) Each student's school district must transmit to the state board  
17 for community and technical colleges an amount per each full-time  
18 equivalent college student at statewide uniform rates. The  
19 superintendent of public instruction shall separately calculate and  
20 allocate moneys appropriated for basic education under RCW 28A.150.260  
21 to school districts for purposes of making such payments and for  
22 granting school districts fifteen percent thereof to provide support  
23 services as required under subsection (4) of this section. The  
24 calculations and allocations must be based upon the estimated statewide  
25 annual average per full-time equivalent high school student allocations  
26 under RCW 28A.150.260, excluding small high school enhancements and  
27 career and technical education enhancements, and applicable rules  
28 adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW. The state board for community and  
29 technical colleges must transmit the per full-time equivalent student  
30 funding to the appropriate community or technical college based on the  
31 standards and procedures of the Washington online system, including  
32 covering the costs of textbooks and materials. The funds received by  
33 a college shall not be deemed tuition or operating fees.

34 (4) A school district must assign a staff member at the student's  
35 high school to monitor the progress of each student enrolled in the  
36 digital college in the high school, including providing technical  
37 assistance, instructional assistance, and initiating contact with the  
38 course instructor as necessary to support the student in successfully

1 completing the course. If the student continues also to be enrolled in  
2 courses offered by the high school, the student may access the online  
3 courses using available computers on the high school campus. The state  
4 board for community and technical colleges and the office of the  
5 superintendent of public instruction must develop a common consent form  
6 for students enrolling in the digital college in the high school to  
7 permit disclosure of education records under the family education  
8 rights and privacy act between the course instructor and the designated  
9 high school staff member so that the staff member may monitor the  
10 student's progress under this subsection.

11 (5) A school district must grant academic credit to a student who  
12 successfully completes a course under the digital college in the high  
13 school. The credit must be applied toward graduation requirements and  
14 subject area requirements. Evidence of the successful completion of  
15 each course must be included in the student's education records and  
16 high school transcript. The transcript must note that the course was  
17 taken through an institution of higher education.

18 (6) The community or technical college that provided the course  
19 instruction must award college credit to a student who successfully  
20 completes a course under the digital college in the high school. The  
21 college may not charge a fee for the award of the credit.

22 (7) The digital college in the high school is in addition to and  
23 does not affect students' opportunities to enroll in online college  
24 courses or on-campus college courses under the running start program  
25 under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.400, or on-campus college in the  
26 high school program courses under RCW 28A.600.290.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630  
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must  
30 conduct a marketing and communications campaign to inform parents,  
31 students, and school districts about the opportunity for students to  
32 earn dual high school and college credit under the digital college in  
33 the high school, with no cost for tuition, fees, or textbooks.

34 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
35 consultation with the state board for community and technical colleges,  
36 must evaluate the digital college in the high school and submit a  
37 report to the education and higher education committees of the

1 legislature by January 15, 2015. The report must include information  
2 about student demographics, course enrollment, and course completion  
3 under the program compared to regularly enrolled high school students  
4 and students enrolled in the running start program and the on-campus  
5 college in the high school program.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act expires August 31, 2015.

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