

2SSB 5265 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature recognizes that the
4 ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented disruption to
5 the education of students throughout the state, and uniquely impacted
6 students who are or were nearing the completion of graduation
7 requirements.

8 (2) Although remote and hybrid instruction, supported by the
9 exceptional efforts of teachers and other education professionals,
10 has proven satisfactory for many students, some courses, subjects,
11 and critical attributes of in-person learning experiences cannot be
12 replicated through highly modified learning environments.
13 Additionally, some education experiences, including full course
14 offerings and extracurricular activities, were reduced or eliminated
15 in response to the pandemic.

16 (3) The legislature, therefore, in recognition of the
17 extraordinary impacts of an ongoing pandemic, intends to establish a
18 temporary two-year program to provide an opportunity for students in
19 the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022 to complete up to one
20 additional school year to pursue academic and experiential
21 opportunities that were diminished or eliminated as a result of the
22 COVID-19 pandemic. The legislature also intends for the program to
23 be, in part, offered to students as an alternative to the individual
24 student emergency waiver program established in chapter 7, Laws of
25 2021.

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

28 (1)(a) The bridge year program is established to provide an
29 opportunity for students in the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022
30 to complete up to one additional school year to pursue academic and
31 experiential opportunities that were identified in their high school

1 and beyond plans but diminished or eliminated as a result of the
2 COVID-19 pandemic. The program is temporary, expires as provided in
3 section 8 of this act, and shall be administered by the state board
4 of education.

5 (b) The objective of a bridge year is for qualifying students,
6 with the support of the applicable high school, to remedy or
7 otherwise address:

8 (i) Learning loss, including learning loss that may be
9 attributable to fewer opportunities for in-person instruction during
10 the 2020-21 school year, learning loss evidenced by academic
11 performances that were inconsistent with previous efforts of the
12 student, and the loss of opportunity to learn in the manner
13 traditionally accessed by the student;

14 (ii) Unmet graduation requirements, including opportunities for
15 meeting graduation requirements that were not available during the
16 2020-21 school year;

17 (iii) Fewer opportunities to access and earn 24 credits;

18 (iv) Fewer opportunities to access courses traditionally offered
19 to students, including career and technical education courses and
20 dual credit courses;

21 (v) Fewer or significantly modified opportunities for mastering
22 academic skills, including diminished opportunities for accessing:
23 Applied learning experiences and learning experiences traditionally
24 associated with the synchronous efforts of other students, such as
25 music and drama, and services provided to students in accordance with
26 individualized education programs; and

27 (vi) Fewer or significantly modified opportunities for social-
28 emotional learning, and extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

29 (2) (a) Each public school and school district that applied to the
30 state board of education for authorization to grant individual
31 student emergency waivers under section 2, chapter 7, Laws of 2021
32 must offer the bridge year program to requesting students of the
33 applicable public school or school district in the graduating classes
34 of 2021 and 2022.

35 (b) Private schools subject to requirements under chapter 28A.195
36 RCW may participate in the applicable provisions of the program, as
37 determined by rule of the state board of education.

38 (3) (a) Each public high school participating in the program shall
39 designate a school staff member as a program liaison to assist
40 students and families with the implementation of the program. Nothing

1 in this section requires a school or school district to hire an
2 individual to serve as a program liaison.

3 (b) The program liaison shall provide individual student advising
4 to help students determine whether the program is appropriate for
5 their needs and, if so, assist each student in developing an addendum
6 to their high school and beyond plan. The addendum must define the
7 academic goals and objectives to be achieved during the student's
8 bridge year, examples of which include increased mastery of academic
9 concepts, completion of dual credit courses, career and technical
10 education courses, or both, and additional experiences in applied
11 learning environments. The addendum also must detail activities and
12 strategies for accomplishing the goals and objectives, including
13 counseling, academic support, coursework, and extracurricular and
14 cocurricular activities.

15 (4) Each high school participating in the program shall maintain
16 records as necessary and as required by rule of the state board of
17 education to demonstrate compliance with this section.

18 (5) Students, with the written permission of their parent or
19 guardian, may participate in the program for up to one academic year.
20 Student participation in the program is voluntary and may not be
21 mandated by a school or school district. In addition to other
22 requirements established by this section and the state board of
23 education, participating students must either:

24 (a) Have met all applicable graduation requirements without
25 having received an emergency waiver authorized by sections 2 and 3,
26 chapter 7, Laws of 2021 and elect to defer graduation for one year as
27 required by the program; or

28 (b) Have not met all applicable graduation requirements and not
29 be in receipt or pursuit of an emergency waiver authorized by
30 sections 2 and 3, chapter 7, Laws of 2021. Students who participate
31 in the program in accordance with this subsection (5)(b) must:

32 (i) Have had their ability to complete one or more graduation
33 requirements impeded by the COVID-19 pandemic;

34 (ii) Have been reasonably expected to graduate in the academic
35 year prior to their participation in the program; and

36 (iii) Provide the applicable school with a written proposal that
37 aligns with their high school and beyond plan and demonstrates a
38 reasonable and achievable plan for meeting defined learning goals and
39 objectives by the conclusion of their bridge year.

1 (6) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection (6), students
2 who are eligible to participate in the program must be 19 years of
3 age or younger and must not turn 20 years of age at any time during
4 their bridge year.

5 (b) Students who receive services pursuant to an individualized
6 education program and will turn 20 years of age during their bridge
7 year are eligible to participate in the program.

8 (7) Schools and school districts participating in the program
9 shall expunge any "D" or "F" grades, or their equivalent, from a
10 participating student's transcript if the student completes the
11 course with a higher grade during their bridge year.

12 (8) (a) Students participating in the program who elect to defer
13 graduation for one year in accordance with subsection (5) (a) of this
14 section may participate in graduation ceremonies with the graduating
15 class of 2021 or 2022, as applicable, but the high school may not
16 issue diplomas to those students until the conclusion of the bridge
17 year or upon a student's withdrawal from the program.

18 (b) Students who have met all graduation requirements have
19 graduated with their initial graduation cohort for purposes of
20 calculating the four-year graduation rate for that cohort.

21 (9) A student who withdraws from the program or meets the goals
22 and objectives of the high school and beyond plan addendum before
23 completing the academic year is, upon withdrawal or completion of the
24 goals and objectives, ineligible to participate in interschool
25 athletic activities and other interschool extracurricular activities
26 of an athletic, cultural, social, or recreational nature authorized
27 under section 3 of this act.

28 (10) For purposes of funding allocations and student enrollment,
29 students participating in the program who enroll in running start
30 courses count as running start students for time spent in running
31 start courses.

32 (11) School districts, charter schools, and state-tribal
33 education compact schools participating in the program are eligible
34 for funds provided in accordance with chapters 28A.150, 28A.710, and
35 28A.715 RCW, as applicable.

36 (12) The state board of education shall adopt, and may amend as
37 necessary, rules to implement this section.

38 (13) For the purposes of this section:

39 (a) "Bridge year" means the full or partial academic year during
40 which a student is participating in the program; and

1 (b) "Program" means the bridge year program established by this
2 section.

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

5 (1) A student who pursues a bridge year pursuant to section 2 of
6 this act may participate in activities sanctioned by the Washington
7 interscholastic activities association and extracurricular activities
8 at the student's host high school.

9 (2) A student participating in a sport or extracurricular
10 activity during the student's bridge year shall pay applicable
11 student athletic and activities fees and be subject to the host high
12 school's student code of conduct, athletic code of conduct, and any
13 other applicable codes, rules, or policies required for student
14 participation in these activities.

15 (3) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, nothing
16 in this section or section 2 of this act supersedes the governance or
17 eligibility rules established by a local, state, or national
18 organization with bona fide authority over a particular
19 extracurricular activity.

20 (4) For students participating in an interscholastic activity
21 under this section, the Washington interscholastic activities
22 association shall make all participating students aware of the
23 eligibility appeal process related to season limitations.

24 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or
25 regulation to the contrary, an insurer doing business in the state
26 and issuing liability insurance policies to school districts must
27 provide coverage for students participating in a sport or
28 extracurricular activity under this section as part of a school or
29 school district's liability insurance policy.

30 (6) For purposes of this section, "host high school," for persons
31 who have met all applicable graduation requirements prior to
32 participating in the program established in section 2 of this act,
33 means the high school that the student attended at the beginning of
34 grade 12. For persons who have not met all applicable graduation
35 requirements prior to participating in the program established in
36 section 2 of this act, "host high school" means the high school the
37 student is enrolled in at the beginning of grade 12.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630

2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The state board of education, in accordance with RCW
4 43.01.036, shall report its finding and recommendations regarding the
5 bridge year program established in section 2 of this act to the
6 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the education
7 committees of the legislature by February 1, 2023.

8 (2) The report required by this section must include:

9 (a) The number of students, schools, and school districts that
10 participated in the program, by school year;

11 (b) Reasons identified by students for participating in the
12 program, by school year;

13 (c) The number and percentage of students who completed the
14 requirements of the program, by school year;

15 (d) The average number of high school and postsecondary credits
16 earned by students participating in the program, by school year;

17 (e) The number and percentage of students who did not complete
18 the requirements of the program and the reasons identified by
19 students for not doing so, by school year; and

20 (f) Any other information deemed relevant by the state board of
21 education.

22 (3) Student-level data required by this section for participating
23 students must be disaggregated in a manner that is consistent with
24 RCW 28A.300.042(3).

25 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
26 collect the data necessary for the report required by this section
27 and provide the data to the state board of education by December 31,
28 2022.

29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.600.290 and 2015 c 202 s 3 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1)(a) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
32 this specific purpose and commencing with the 2015-16 school year,
33 funding may be allocated at an amount per college credit for eleventh
34 and twelfth grade students ~~((~~or~~))~~, students who have not yet received
35 a high school diploma or its equivalent and are eligible to be in the
36 eleventh or twelfth grade, and students participating in a bridge
37 year under section 2 of this act, who are enrolled in college in the
38 high school courses under this section as specified in the omnibus
39 appropriations act and adjusted for inflation from the 2015-16 school

1 year. The maximum annual number of allocated credits per
2 participating student shall be specified in the omnibus
3 appropriations act, which must not exceed ten credits. Funding shall
4 be prioritized in the following order:

5 (i) High schools offering a running start in the high school
6 program in school year 2014-15. These schools shall only receive
7 prioritized funding in school year 2015-16;

8 (ii) Students whose residence or the high school in which they
9 are enrolled is located twenty driving miles or more as measured by
10 the most direct route from the nearest eligible institution of higher
11 education offering a running start program, whichever is greater; and

12 (iii) High schools eligible for the small school funding
13 enhancement in the omnibus appropriations act.

14 (b)(i) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
15 this specific purpose and commencing with the 2015-16 school year,
16 and only after the programs in (a) of this subsection are funded, a
17 subsidy may be provided per college credit for eleventh and twelfth
18 grade students ~~((\oplus))~~, students who have not yet received a high
19 school diploma or its equivalent and are eligible to be in the
20 eleventh or twelfth grade, and students participating in a bridge
21 year under section 2 of this act, who have been deemed eligible for
22 free or reduced-price lunch and are enrolled in college in the high
23 school courses under this section as specified in the omnibus
24 appropriations act and adjusted for inflation from the 2015-16 school
25 year. The maximum annual number of subsidized credits per
26 participating student shall be specified in the omnibus
27 appropriations act, which must not exceed five credits.

28 (ii) Districts wishing to participate in the subsidy program must
29 apply to the office of the superintendent of public instruction by
30 July 1st of each year and report the preliminary estimate of eligible
31 students to receive the subsidy and the total number of projected
32 credit hours.

33 (iii) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
34 shall notify districts by September 1st of each school year if the
35 district's students will receive the subsidy. If more districts apply
36 than funding is available, the office of the superintendent of public
37 instruction shall prioritize the district applications. The
38 superintendent shall develop factors to determine priority including,
39 but not limited to, the number of dual credit opportunities available
40 for low-income students in the districts.

1 (c) Districts shall remit any allocations or subsidies on behalf
2 of participating students under (a) and (b) of this subsection to the
3 participating institution of higher education and those students
4 shall not be required to pay for the credits.

5 (d) The minimum allocation and subsidy under this section is
6 sixty-five dollars per quarter credit for credit-bearing
7 postsecondary coursework. The office of the superintendent of public
8 instruction, the student achievement council, the state board for
9 community and technical colleges, and the public baccalaureate
10 institutions shall review funding levels for the program every four
11 years beginning in 2017 and recommend changes.

12 (e) Students may pay college in the high school fees with
13 advanced college tuition payment program tuition units at a rate set
14 by the advanced college tuition payment program governing body under
15 chapter 28B.95 RCW.

16 (2) For the purposes of funding students enrolled in the college
17 in the high school program in accordance with subsection (1) of this
18 section, college in the high school is defined as a dual credit
19 program located on a high school campus or in a high school
20 environment in which a high school student, or a student
21 participating in a bridge year under section 2 of this act, is able
22 to earn both high school and postsecondary credit by completing
23 postsecondary level courses with a passing grade.

24 (3) College in the high school programs may include both academic
25 and career and technical education.

26 (4) College in the high school programs shall each be governed by
27 a local contract between the district and the participating
28 institution of higher education, in compliance with the rules adopted
29 by the superintendent of public instruction under this section.

30 (5) The college in the high school program must include the
31 provisions in this subsection.

32 (a) The high school and participating institution of higher
33 education together shall define the criteria for student eligibility.
34 The institution of higher education may charge tuition fees to
35 participating students. If specific funding is provided in the
36 omnibus appropriations act for the per credit allocations and per
37 credit subsidies under subsection (1) of this section, the maximum
38 per credit fee charged to any enrolled student may not exceed the
39 amount of the per credit allocation or subsidy.

1 (b) The funds received by the participating institution of higher
2 education may not be deemed tuition or operating fees and may be
3 retained by the institution of higher education.

4 (c) Enrollment information on persons registered under this
5 section must be maintained by the institution of higher education
6 separately from other enrollment information and may not be included
7 in official enrollment reports, nor may such persons be considered in
8 any enrollment statistics that would affect higher education
9 budgetary determinations.

10 (d) A school district must grant high school credit to a student
11 enrolled in a program course if the student successfully completes
12 the course. If no comparable course is offered by the school
13 district, the school district superintendent shall determine how many
14 credits to award for the course. The determination shall be made in
15 writing before the student enrolls in the course. The credits shall
16 be applied toward graduation requirements and subject area
17 requirements. Evidence of successful completion of each program
18 course shall be included in the student's secondary school records
19 and transcript.

20 (e) A participating institution of higher education must grant
21 college credit to a student enrolled in a program course if the
22 student successfully completes the course. The college credit shall
23 be applied toward general education requirements or degree
24 requirements at institutions of higher education. Evidence of
25 successful completion of each program course must be included in the
26 student's college transcript.

27 (f) Tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade students or students who
28 have not yet received a high school diploma or its equivalent and are
29 eligible to be in the tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grades, and
30 students participating in a bridge year under section 2 of this act,
31 may participate in the college in the high school program.

32 (g) Participating school districts must provide general
33 information about the college in the high school program to all
34 students in grades nine through twelve and to the parents and
35 guardians of those students.

36 (h) Full-time and part-time faculty at institutions of higher
37 education, including adjunct faculty, are eligible to teach program
38 courses.

39 (6) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules
40 for the administration of this section. The rules shall be jointly

1 developed by the superintendent of public instruction, the state
2 board for community and technical colleges, the student achievement
3 council, and the public baccalaureate institutions. The association
4 of Washington school principals must be consulted during the rules
5 development. The rules must outline quality and eligibility standards
6 that are informed by nationally recognized standards or models. In
7 addition, the rules must encourage the maximum use of the program and
8 may not narrow or limit the enrollment options.

9 (7) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
10 section.

11 (a) "Institution of higher education" has the definition in RCW
12 28B.10.016, and also includes a public tribal college located in
13 Washington and accredited by the Northwest commission on colleges and
14 universities or another accrediting association recognized by the
15 United States department of education.

16 (b) "Program course" means a college course offered in a high
17 school under the college in the high school program.

18 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.600.310 and 2019 c 252 s 115 and 2019 c 176 s 2
19 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

20 (1)(a) Eleventh and twelfth grade students (~~(e)~~), students who
21 have not yet received the credits required for the award of a high
22 school diploma and are eligible to be in the eleventh or twelfth
23 grades, and students participating in a bridge year under section 2
24 of this act, may apply to a participating institution of higher
25 education to enroll in courses or programs offered by the institution
26 of higher education.

27 (b) The course sections and programs offered as running start
28 courses must also be open for registration to matriculated students
29 at the participating institution of higher education and may not be a
30 course consisting solely of high school students offered at a high
31 school campus.

32 (c) A student receiving home-based instruction enrolling in a
33 public high school for the sole purpose of participating in courses
34 or programs offered by institutions of higher education shall not be
35 counted by the school district in any required state or federal
36 accountability reporting if the student's parents or guardians filed
37 a declaration of intent to provide home-based instruction and the
38 student received home-based instruction during the school year before
39 the school year in which the student intends to participate in

1 courses or programs offered by the institution of higher education.
2 Students receiving home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW
3 and students attending private schools approved under chapter 28A.195
4 RCW shall not be required to meet the student learning goals or to
5 learn the state learning standards. However, students are eligible to
6 enroll in courses or programs in participating universities only if
7 the board of directors of the student's school district has decided
8 to participate in the program. Participating institutions of higher
9 education, in consultation with school districts, may establish
10 admission standards for these students. If the institution of higher
11 education accepts a secondary school pupil for enrollment under this
12 section, the institution of higher education shall send written
13 notice to the pupil and the pupil's school district within ten days
14 of acceptance. The notice shall indicate the course and hours of
15 enrollment for that pupil.

16 (2) (a) In lieu of tuition and fees, as defined in RCW 28B.15.020
17 and 28B.15.041:

18 (i) Running start students shall pay to the community or
19 technical college all other mandatory fees as established by each
20 community or technical college and, in addition, the state board for
21 community and technical colleges may authorize a fee of up to ten
22 percent of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and
23 28B.15.041; and

24 (ii) All other institutions of higher education operating a
25 running start program may charge running start students a fee of up
26 to ten percent of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and
27 28B.15.041 in addition to technology fees.

28 (b) The fees charged under this subsection (2) shall be prorated
29 based on credit load.

30 (c) Students may pay fees under this subsection with advanced
31 college tuition payment program tuition units at a rate set by the
32 advanced college tuition payment program governing body under chapter
33 28B.95 RCW.

34 (3) (a) The institutions of higher education must make available
35 fee waivers for low-income running start students. A student shall be
36 considered low income and eligible for a fee waiver upon proof that
37 the student is currently qualified to receive free or reduced-price
38 lunch. Acceptable documentation of low-income status may also
39 include, but is not limited to, documentation that a student has been

1 deemed eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in the last five
2 years, or other criteria established in the institution's policy.

3 (b) (i) By the beginning of the 2020-21 school year, school
4 districts, upon knowledge of a low-income student's enrollment in
5 running start, must provide documentation of the student's low-income
6 status, under (a) of this subsection, directly to institutions of
7 higher education.

8 (ii) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
9 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
10 instruction, in consultation with the Washington student achievement
11 council, shall develop a centralized process for school districts to
12 provide students' low-income status to institutions of higher
13 education to meet the requirements of (b) (i) of this subsection.

14 (c) Institutions of higher education, in collaboration with
15 relevant student associations, shall aim to have students who can
16 benefit from fee waivers take advantage of these waivers.
17 Institutions shall make every effort to communicate to students and
18 their families the benefits of the waivers and provide assistance to
19 students and their families on how to apply. Information about
20 waivers shall, to the greatest extent possible, be incorporated into
21 financial aid counseling, admission information, and individual
22 billing statements. Institutions also shall, to the greatest extent
23 possible, use all means of communication, including but not limited
24 to web sites, online catalogues, admission and registration forms,
25 mass email messaging, social media, and outside marketing to ensure
26 that information about waivers is visible, compelling, and reaches
27 the maximum number of students and families that can benefit.

28 (4) The pupil's school district shall transmit to the institution
29 of higher education an amount per each full-time equivalent college
30 student at statewide uniform rates for vocational and nonvocational
31 students. The superintendent of public instruction shall separately
32 calculate and allocate moneys appropriated for basic education under
33 RCW 28A.150.260 to school districts for purposes of making such
34 payments and for granting school districts seven percent thereof to
35 offset program related costs. The calculations and allocations shall
36 be based upon the estimated statewide annual average per full-time
37 equivalent high school student allocations under RCW 28A.150.260,
38 excluding small high school enhancements, and applicable rules
39 adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW. The superintendent of public
40 instruction, participating institutions of higher education, and the

1 state board for community and technical colleges shall consult on the
2 calculation and distribution of the funds. The funds received by the
3 institution of higher education from the school district shall not be
4 deemed tuition or operating fees and may be retained by the
5 institution of higher education. A student enrolled under this
6 subsection shall be counted for the purpose of meeting enrollment
7 targets in accordance with terms and conditions specified in the
8 omnibus appropriations act.

9 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28A.600.330 and 1994 c 205 s 4 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1) A pupil who enrolls in an institution of higher education in
12 grade eleven may not enroll in postsecondary courses under RCW
13 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.390 for high school credit and
14 postsecondary credit for more than the equivalent of the coursework
15 for two academic years. A pupil who first enrolls in an institution
16 of higher education in grade twelve may not enroll in postsecondary
17 courses under this section for high school credit and postsecondary
18 credit for more than the equivalent of the coursework for one
19 academic year.

20 (2) The credit limitations in this section do not apply to
21 students participating in the bridge year program created in section
22 2 of this act.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act expires July 31, 2023.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** This act is necessary for the immediate
25 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
26 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
27 effect immediately."

28 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Makes numerous changes to the bridge year pilot program
established in the underlying bill, including:

(1) Making students who have not met graduation requirements
eligible to participate in the program;

(2) Transferring administration of the program and associated
rulemaking authority from the Office of the Superintendent of Public
Instruction (OSPI) to the State Board of Education (SBE);

(3) Requiring the development of a high school and beyond plan
addendum for each student participating in the program, and
prescribing related duties for program liaisons;

(4) Requiring each public school and school district that applied to the SBE for authorization to grant individual student emergency waivers under Engrossed House Bill No. (EHB) 1121 to offer the program to requesting students of the applicable public school or school district in the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022;

(5) Removing mandatory course, grade point average, and individual learning plan requirements for participating students;

(6) Conditioning enrollment in the bridge year program for students who have met all applicable graduation requirements by specifying that those students must have met the graduation requirements without receiving an emergency graduation waiver authorized by EHB 1121;

(7) Specifying that, for funding purposes, students in the program who enroll in Running Start courses count as Running Start students only for time spent in Running Start courses;

(8) Establishing reporting requirements for the SBE and associated data collection requirements for the OSPI;

(9) Adding intent language; and

(10) Removing references to "pilot."

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