
HOUSE BILL 1710

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Moscoso, Lillas, Probst, Ladenburg, Hasegawa, McCoy, Haler, Dahlquist, Green, Wilcox, McCune, Zeiger, Roberts, Stanford, Billig, Maxwell, Hunt, and Kenney

Read first time 01/31/11. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a strategic plan for career and
2 technical education; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature continues to find that
5 access to high quality career and technical education for middle and
6 high school students is a key strategy for reducing the dropout rate
7 and closing the achievement gap. Career and technical education
8 increases the number of young people who obtain a meaningful
9 postsecondary credential. Improving career and technical education is
10 also an efficiency measure, because reductions in the dropout rate are
11 associated with increased earnings for individuals and reduced societal
12 costs in the criminal justice and welfare systems.

13 (2) The legislature further finds that much progress has been made
14 since 2008 to enhance the rigor and relevance of career and technical
15 education programs and to align and integrate instruction more closely
16 with academic subjects, high demand fields, industry certification, and
17 postsecondary education. Activities to support these objectives have
18 included:

1 (a) Requiring all preparatory career and technical education
2 programs to lead to industry certification or offer dual high school
3 and college credit;

4 (b) Expanding state support for middle school career and technical
5 education programs, especially in science, technology, and engineering;

6 (c) Providing support for schools to develop or upgrade programs in
7 high demand fields and offer preapprenticeships;

8 (d) Developing model career and technical programs of study leading
9 to industry credentials or degrees;

10 (e) Assisting school districts with identifying academic and career
11 and technical education course equivalencies;

12 (f) Pilot-testing programs to integrate academic, career and
13 technical, basic skills, and English as a second language instruction;
14 and

15 (g) Developing performance measures and targets for accountability.

16 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to ensure that progress will
17 be continued and enhanced by providing a mechanism for monitoring
18 continuous improvement in the rigor, relevance, and recognition of
19 secondary career and technical education programs and improvement in
20 students' access to these programs.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
22 public instruction shall convene a working group to develop a statewide
23 strategic plan for secondary career and technical education.

24 (2) The strategic plan must include:

25 (a) A vision statement, goals, and measurable annual objectives for
26 continuous improvement in the rigor, relevance, recognition, and
27 student access in career and technical education programs that build on
28 current initiatives and progress in improving career and technical
29 education; and

30 (b) Recommended activities and strategies, in priority order, to
31 accomplish the objectives and goals, including activities and
32 strategies that:

33 (i) Can be accomplished within current resources and funding
34 formulas;

35 (ii) Should receive top priority for additional investment; and

36 (iii) Could be phased-in over the next ten years.

37 (3) In particular, the working group must examine:

1 (a) Proposed changes to high school graduation requirements and
2 strategies to ensure that students continue to have opportunities to
3 pursue career and technical college and career pathways along with a
4 meaningful high school diploma;

5 (b) How career and technical education courses can be used to meet
6 the common core standards and how in turn the standards can be used to
7 enhance the rigor of career and technical education;

8 (c) Ways to improve student access to high quality career and
9 technical education courses, including in middle school, comprehensive
10 high schools, and rural areas; and

11 (d) A framework for a series of career and technical education
12 certifications that are: (i) Transferable between and among secondary
13 schools and postsecondary institutions; and (ii) articulated across
14 secondary and postsecondary levels so that students receive credit for
15 knowledge and skills they have already mastered.

16 (4) The working group membership shall include:

17 (a) School district and skill center career and technical education
18 directors and teachers;

19 (b) Community and technical college career and technical education
20 faculty;

21 (c) At least one of each of the following: A school director, a
22 principal, a counselor, and a parent;

23 (d) Representatives from industry, labor, tech prep consortia, and
24 local workforce development councils;

25 (e) A representative from the workforce training and education
26 coordinating board; and

27 (f) One member of the house of representatives appointed by the
28 speaker of the house and one member of the senate appointed by the
29 president of the senate. Both legislative members shall also be
30 members of the quality education council under RCW 28A.290.010.

31 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
32 submit a progress report to the education committees of the legislature
33 and to the quality education council by December 1, 2011. The final
34 strategic plan, including priorities, recommendations, and measurable
35 annual objectives for continuous improvement, is due by December 1,
36 2012.

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