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SENATE BILL 5243

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Litzow, Dammeier, Tom, Harper, Hobbs, Delvin, Hewitt, Padden, Mullet, and Shin

Read first time 01/24/13. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing policies to support academic  
2 acceleration for high school students; adding new sections to chapter  
3 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating  
4 a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that progress is  
7 being made in making dual high school and college credit courses  
8 available for students:

9 (a) Overall dual credit program enrollments increased by almost  
10 four percent between 2009 and 2012;

11 (b) The number of dual credit programs offered by Washington high  
12 schools increased by almost fifteen percent between the 2009-10 school  
13 year and the 2011-12 school year; and

14 (c) Dual credit program participation rates for low-income students  
15 increased more than fourteen percent between the 2009-10 school year  
16 and the 2011-12 school year.

17 (2) However, the legislature further finds that more can be done to  
18 promote academic acceleration for all students and eliminate barriers,

1 real or perceived, that may prevent students from enrolling in rigorous  
2 advanced courses, including dual credit courses.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) By September 1, 2013, each school district board of directors  
6 must adopt an academic acceleration policy for high school students as  
7 provided under this section.

8 (2) Under the academic acceleration policy:

9 (a) The district must automatically enroll any student who meets  
10 the state standard on the high school statewide student assessment in  
11 the next most rigorous level of advanced courses offered by the high  
12 school. Students who successfully complete such an advanced course  
13 must then be enrolled in the next most rigorous level of advanced  
14 course, with the objective that students will eventually be  
15 automatically enrolled in courses that offer the opportunity to earn  
16 dual credit for high school and college.

17 (b) The subject matter of the advanced courses in which the student  
18 is automatically enrolled depends on the content area or areas of the  
19 statewide student assessment where the student has met the state  
20 standard. Students who meet the state standard on both end-of-course  
21 mathematics assessments are considered to have met the state standard  
22 for high school mathematics. Students who meet the state standard in  
23 both reading and writing are eligible for enrollment in advanced  
24 courses in English, social studies, humanities, and other related  
25 subjects.

26 (c) The district must notify students and parents or guardians  
27 regarding the academic acceleration policy and the advanced courses  
28 available to students.

29 (d) The district must provide a parent or guardian with an  
30 opportunity to opt out of the academic acceleration policy and enroll  
31 a student in an alternative course.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 (1) Subject to funds appropriated specifically for this purpose,  
35 the academic acceleration incentive program is established as provided  
36 in this section. The intent of the legislature is that the funds

1 awarded under the program be used to support teacher training,  
2 curriculum, technology, examination fees, and other costs associated  
3 with offering dual credit courses to high school students.

4 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
5 allocate to school districts an incentive award for each student who  
6 earned dual high school and college credit, as described under  
7 subsection (3) of this section, for courses offered by the district's  
8 high schools during the previous school year. School districts must  
9 distribute the award to the high schools that generated the funds. The  
10 award amount for low-income students eligible to participate in the  
11 federal free and reduced-price meals program who earn dual credits must  
12 be set at one hundred twenty-five percent of the base award for other  
13 students. A student who earns more than one dual credit in the same  
14 school year counts only once for the purposes of the incentive award.

15 (3) For the purposes of this section, the following students are  
16 considered to have earned dual high school and college credit in a  
17 course offered by a high school:

18 (a) Students who achieve a score of three or higher on an AP  
19 examination;

20 (b) Students who achieve a score of four or higher on an  
21 examination of the international baccalaureate diploma programme;

22 (c) Students who successfully complete a Cambridge advanced  
23 international certificate of education examination;

24 (d) Students who successfully complete a course through the college  
25 in the high school program under RCW 28A.600.290 and are awarded credit  
26 by the partnering institution of higher education; and

27 (e) Students who satisfy the dual enrollment and class performance  
28 requirements to earn college credit through a tech prep course.

29 (4) If a high school provides access to online courses for students  
30 to earn dual high school and college credit at no cost to the student,  
31 such a course is considered to be offered by the high school. Students  
32 enrolled in the running start program under RCW 28A.600.300 do not  
33 generate an incentive award under this section.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 In addition to data on student enrollment in dual credit courses,  
37 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall collect

1 and post on the Washington state report card web site the rates at  
2 which students earn college credit through a dual credit course, using  
3 the following criteria:

4 (1) Students who achieve a score of three or higher on an AP  
5 examination;

6 (2) Students who achieve a score of four or higher on an  
7 examination of the international baccalaureate diploma programme;

8 (3) Students who successfully complete a Cambridge advanced  
9 international certificate of education examination;

10 (4) Students who successfully complete a course through the college  
11 in the high school program under RCW 28A.600.290 and are awarded credit  
12 by the partnering institution of higher education; and

13 (5) Students who satisfy the dual enrollment and class performance  
14 requirements to earn college credit through a tech prep course; and

15 (6) Students who successfully complete a course through the running  
16 start program under RCW 28A.600.300 and are awarded credit by the  
17 institution of higher education.

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