
HOUSE BILL 2864

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Representatives Paul, Morgan, Valdez, Bergquist, Lekanoff, and Santos

Read first time 01/27/20. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a running start summer school
2 pilot program; amending RCW 28A.600.300 and 28A.600.320; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28B.50 RCW; creating a new section; and providing
4 expiration dates.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that the
7 successes of the running start program, a program that allows
8 students to earn high school and college credit through courses taken
9 at participating institutions of higher education, have enabled
10 students throughout the state to meaningfully advance their secondary
11 and postsecondary education goals. However, because running start
12 program schedules are constrained by the academic calendar of the
13 applicable high school, students are currently precluded from
14 participating in running start programs during the summer academic
15 term.

16 (2) The legislature finds that creating a summer term running
17 start pilot program for students who have recently completed grade
18 ten or eleven would result in numerous benefits, including providing
19 students with additional opportunities to: Complete requirements for
20 earning a high school diploma or an associate's degree; and explore
21 college-level courses in a lower stress environment that does not

1 include concurrent high school obligations. The expansion of these
2 opportunities could be especially beneficial for students who:

3 (a) Need or want additional academic credit for high school
4 requirements;

5 (b) Are interested in maximizing opportunities to earn college
6 credit before graduating from high school;

7 (c) Have not determined what career and educational pathways to
8 pursue after high school and wish to explore academic options; and

9 (d) May be the first in their family to attend an institution of
10 higher education.

11 (3) The legislature, therefore, intends to establish a two-year
12 running start summer school pilot program to provide qualifying
13 students with the opportunity to earn high school and college credit
14 through courses or programs offered by participating institutions of
15 higher education during summer academic terms.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
19 specific purpose, the running start summer school pilot program is
20 established in the college board.

21 The purpose of the pilot program is to provide any student who
22 has completed grade ten or eleven and will be eligible to enroll in
23 grade eleven or twelve in the subsequent school year with the
24 opportunity to apply to a participating institution of higher
25 education to enroll in and complete courses or programs offered by
26 the institution during its summer academic term.

27 (2) The college board, in accordance with an application process
28 developed by the college board for this purpose, and in consultation
29 with the office of the superintendent of public instruction, must
30 select three applicant institutions of higher education to
31 participate in the pilot program. In making the selections, the
32 college board must consider geographic diversity and efforts to serve
33 a diversity of students, including those underserved by institutions
34 of higher education. Students participating in the pilot program must
35 be able to enroll in a course or program offered by an institution of
36 higher education during a summer term no later than after the
37 conclusion of the 2019-20 school year of the applicable high school.
38 Institutions of higher education participating in the pilot program

1 must agree to do so for a period of time that includes two
2 consecutive summer academic terms.

3 (3) The pilot program established by this section is part of the
4 running start program established in RCW 28A.600.300 through
5 28A.600.400. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the
6 definitions and requirements established in RCW 28A.600.300 through
7 28A.600.400 apply to the running start summer school pilot program.
8 In accordance with this subsection (3), "institution of higher
9 education" has the same meaning as in RCW 28A.600.300.

10 (4) The college board shall report findings and recommendations
11 from the pilot program, including recommending whether the program
12 should be extended, to the governor and, in accordance with RCW
13 43.01.036, the education committees of the house of representatives
14 and the senate by November 10, 2021.

15 (5) This section expires December 31, 2021.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.600.300 and 2009 c 450 s 7 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The program established in this section through RCW
19 28A.600.400, including the running start summer school pilot program
20 established in section 2 of this act, shall be known as the running
21 start program.

22 (2) For the purposes of RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.400,
23 "participating institution of higher education" or "institution of
24 higher education" means:

25 (a) A community or technical college as defined in RCW
26 28B.50.030;

27 (b) A public tribal college located in Washington and accredited
28 by the northwest commission on colleges and universities or another
29 accrediting association recognized by the United States department of
30 education; and

31 (c) Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University,
32 Washington State University, and The Evergreen State College, if the
33 institution's governing board decides to participate in the program
34 in RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.400.

35 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.600.320 and 2009 c 524 s 4 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 (1) A school district shall provide general information about the
38 program, including the running start summer school pilot program

1 established in section 2 of this act, to all pupils in grades ten,
2 eleven, and twelve and to the parents and guardians of those
3 pupils(~~(,---including)~~). The information provided must include
4 information about the opportunity to enroll in the program through
5 online courses available at community and technical colleges and
6 other state institutions of higher education and including the
7 college high school diploma options under RCW 28B.50.535.

8 (2) To assist the district in planning, a pupil shall inform the
9 district of the pupil's intent to enroll in courses at an institution
10 of higher education for credit. Students are responsible for applying
11 for admission to the institution of higher education.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Section 3 of this act expires December 31,
13 2021.

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