
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1273

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Paul, Eslick, Salahuddin, Bergquist, Reed, Nance, Timmons, Pollet, Fey, and Simmons)

READ FIRST TIME 02/21/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving student access to dual credit
2 programs including career and technical education dual credit
3 programs; adding new sections to chapter 28B.50 RCW; creating new
4 sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that students
7 who participate in dual credit programs have higher rates of college
8 enrollment, persistence, and completion. Dual credit programs are an
9 important economic development for Washington because they equip
10 students with the skills needed for high-skill, high-wage employment
11 and continued education in high-demand sectors.

12 (2) Career and technical education (CTE) dual credit is the most
13 commonly accessed form of dual credit in Washington and has
14 significant potential to improve equitable access to postsecondary
15 pathways for students from all backgrounds. However, it lags behind
16 other course-based dual credit programs in ensuring that students
17 receive a transcribed credit while in high school, and that the
18 credit they earn will transfer to the postsecondary institution of
19 their choice.

20 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to extend and expand a
21 pilot program for the purpose of increasing CTE dual credit

1 participation and credential attainment in professional technical
2 programs, plan for the improvement or replacement of the statewide
3 enrollment and reporting system for CTE dual credit, and receive
4 recommendations on future amendments to state dual credit policies.

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

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
8 specific purpose, the college board shall administer, and award grant
9 funding to, up to three regional pilot programs, for the purpose of
10 increasing career and technical education dual credit participation
11 and credential attainment in professional technical programs.

12 (2)(a) One pilot program must be a continuation of the pilot
13 program established in section 601(47)(a), chapter 376, Laws of 2024.
14 This pilot program may receive grant funding for up to two years.

15 (b) The college board, in collaboration with the office of the
16 superintendent of public instruction, must select participants for
17 the other two pilot programs based on educational service district
18 regions. The pilot programs must be geographically dispersed, with at
19 least one in an educational service district with rural communities
20 that lack convenient student access to skill centers or other
21 workforce development facilities or programs. These pilot programs
22 may receive grant funding for up to four years.

23 (3) Community and technical colleges, public high schools, and
24 skill centers participating in a pilot program may use grant funding
25 to cover expenses for the following activities:

26 (a) Developing, and updating annually, a comprehensive catalog of
27 dual credit courses and programs offered to students enrolled in
28 public high schools;

29 (b) Aligning career and technical education dual credit programs
30 with postsecondary credential pathways and apprenticeships leading to
31 in-demand career fields;

32 (c) Providing technical assistance to public high schools and
33 institutions of higher education to improve the accuracy and speed of
34 awarding dual credits and updating transcripts;

35 (d) Providing professional development for staff of public high
36 schools and institutions of higher education to develop, align, and
37 articulate dual credit courses; and

38 (e) Supporting public high school staff in the following
39 activities:

1 (i) Outreach to prospective students and students who have
2 completed career and technical education dual credit courses and are
3 eligible for postsecondary credit about how to receive and where to
4 apply the credit;

5 (ii) Providing technical assistance in course curriculum
6 alignment for career and technical education dual credit courses;

7 (iii) Partnering with institutions of higher education to develop
8 articulation agreements for career and technical education dual
9 credit courses; and

10 (iv) Awarding equipment and supplies grants for career and
11 technical education dual credit courses that meet emerging needs in
12 high-demand, high-paying industries.

13 (4) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions
14 apply:

15 (a) "Public high school" means a public school as defined in RCW
16 28A.150.010 with any of grades nine through 12; and

17 (b) "Skill centers" refers to the regional career and technical
18 education partnerships established under chapter 28A.245 RCW.

19 (5) This section expires July 1, 2030.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The state board for community and
21 technical colleges shall develop a plan for improving or replacing
22 its online, statewide enrollment and reporting system for career and
23 technical education dual credit.

24 (2) The state board for community and technical colleges shall
25 hire a consultant to conduct a comprehensive, written assessment of
26 technology solutions with the goal of enhancing secondary and
27 postsecondary career and technical education dual credit systems to
28 ensure seamless integration and accessibility for users.

29 (3) The objectives and scope of the assessment are as follows:

30 (a) Evaluate current technology used by state agencies involved
31 in dual credit programs to identify strengths, weaknesses, and gaps
32 in the systems;

33 (b) Gather input from all interested parties, including students,
34 educators, administrators, and policymakers, then document and
35 prioritize the needs and requirements of each group;

36 (c) Review and evaluate existing technology solutions available
37 on the open market, then compare features, costs, and implementation
38 requirements of each solution;

1 (d) Develop a comprehensive strategy for implementing the chosen
2 technology solutions, including a detailed timeline outlining key
3 milestones and deliverables; and

4 (e) Estimate the total cost to implement the chosen technology
5 solutions and identify potential funding sources.

6 (4) By June 30, 2026, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
7 state board for community and technical colleges shall report to the
8 appropriate committees of the legislature with the comprehensive,
9 written assessment of technology solutions conducted by the
10 consultant hired under subsection (2) of this section. The board must
11 include a cover letter outlining its position on the consultant's
12 conclusions. If the board does not concur with the findings, the
13 cover letter must provide a clear explanation of the reasons for its
14 disagreement.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) In compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the college board, in
18 consultation with the office of the superintendent of public
19 instruction, shall jointly report to the appropriate committees of
20 the legislature on the implementation of this act and with
21 recommendations for additional improvements to state dual credit
22 policies. The preliminary report is due by December 10, 2026, and the
23 final report is due by August 10, 2029.

24 (2) One or both reports must include the following information:

25 (a) Findings regarding pilot programs created for the purpose of
26 increasing career and technical education dual credit participation
27 and credential attainment in professional technical programs under
28 section 2 of this act; and

29 (b) Recommendations to the legislature and relevant state
30 agencies for:

31 (i) Improving career and technical education course articulation
32 and for the development of statewide articulation agreements;

33 (ii) Improving data collection and reporting methods;

34 (iii) Credit transcription and transfer processes;

35 (iv) Ensuring college and career counseling for high school
36 students includes robust and accurate information about dual credit
37 pathways, including career and technical education dual credit, and
38 their alignment to postsecondary credential and apprenticeship
39 opportunities;

1 (v) Further alignment of career and technical education dual
2 credit with career-connected learning, apprenticeship, and credential
3 pathways; and

4 (vi) Identification of additional priority career and technical
5 education dual credit courses for statewide articulation,
6 considering, but not limited to, the targeted industry sectors under
7 RCW 43.330.090.

8 (3) The final report must establish recommendations to improve
9 state career and technical education dual credit policies, create
10 statewide articulation agreements, and improve the uniform
11 transcription of earned credits. These recommendations must include
12 input from a statewide organization representing career and technical
13 education and other relevant interested parties and report on
14 potential statutory changes and administrative rule improvements that
15 support equitable student access to, and the effectiveness of, career
16 and technical education dual credit programs.

17 (4) This section expires July 1, 2030.

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