
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1557

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Postsecondary Education & Workforce (originally sponsored by Representatives Reed, Salahuddin, Scott, Morgan, Street, Ramel, Walen, Macri, Berry, Obras, Bernbaum, Fosse, Mena, Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, Lekanoff, Duerr, Ryu, Leavitt, Gregerson, Parshley, Kloba, Goodman, Peterson, Zahn, Pollet, and Doglio)

READ FIRST TIME 02/20/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to making higher education more accessible by
2 establishing the Washington guaranteed admissions program and
3 requiring student notifications; adding a new section to chapter
4 28B.10 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28A.150 RCW; and creating
5 a new section.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that engaging with
8 high school students to prepare them for higher education and
9 familiarize them with college admissions through guaranteed
10 admissions increases equity, access, and credential completion in the
11 state. The legislature intends to establish the Washington guaranteed
12 admissions program as an appropriate and necessary step to accomplish
13 these goals.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The Washington guaranteed admissions program is established
17 in collaboration with the state's public four-year institutions of
18 higher education.

19 (2)(a) The regional universities, the state college, at least one
20 campus of each state university, and tribal institutions of higher

1 education operated by an Indian tribe as defined in RCW 43.376.010
2 shall participate in the Washington guaranteed admissions program
3 beginning in the 2026-27 academic year.

4 (b) Institutions in (a) of this subsection may opt out of the
5 Washington guaranteed admissions program by reporting to the
6 legislature, in accordance with RCW 43.01.036, the following:

7 (i) The reason for opting out; and

8 (ii) A detailed overview of other initiatives for improving
9 admissions and expanding access to the institution for resident
10 students.

11 (3) Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, participating
12 institutions shall simplify and streamline the general admissions
13 application form requiring only necessary information for students.

14 (4) Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, an organization
15 representing the presidents of the public four-year institutions of
16 higher education shall consult with the student achievement council
17 and the state board for community and technical colleges in
18 determining eligibility criteria for the Washington guaranteed
19 admissions program and annually reviewing the eligibility criteria.

20 (5) An organization representing the presidents of the public
21 four-year institutions of higher education may collaborate with
22 philanthropic organizations to secure funding for a range of
23 strategic initiatives essential to the successful promotion and
24 implementation of the program, including marketing campaigns,
25 research and analysis, and the engagement of specialized professional
26 services to enhance program visibility, outreach, and operational
27 effectiveness.

28 (6) Beginning with the 2026-27 academic year, the Washington
29 school information processing cooperative shall collect and transmit
30 the data of students in grades 11 and 12 who meet the criteria
31 determined in subsection (4) of this section to an organization
32 representing the presidents of the public four-year institutions of
33 higher education, which shall hold and make the information available
34 to participating institutions for the purpose of guaranteeing
35 admission to qualified applicants in accordance with this section.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
37 RCW to read as follows:

38 (1) By January 1, 2026, each school district, charter school,
39 state-tribal education compact school, and institutional education

1 provider with students in grade 11 or 12 shall enter into a data-
2 sharing agreement with each participating institution in the
3 Washington guaranteed admissions program established in section 2 of
4 this act or the Washington school information processing cooperative
5 to facilitate the transfer of data of students in grades 11 and 12
6 who meet the criteria determined pursuant to section 2(4) of this
7 act. Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, school districts,
8 charter schools, state-tribal education compact schools, and
9 institutional education providers shall work with the Washington
10 school information processing cooperative and participating
11 institutions through an organization representing the presidents of
12 the public four-year institutions of higher education to facilitate
13 the transfer of data required under this subsection.

14 (2) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
15 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

16 (a) "Charter school" means a school established under chapter
17 28A.710 RCW.

18 (b) "Institutional education provider" has the same meaning as in
19 RCW 28A.190.005.

20 (c) "Participating institutions" are those that have not opted
21 out of the program and includes the regional universities, the state
22 college, at least one campus of each state university, and tribal
23 institutions of higher education operated by an Indian tribe as
24 defined in RCW 43.376.010.

25 (d) "State-tribal education compact school" means a school
26 subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
28 RCW to read as follows:

29 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
30 collaborate with the student achievement council, an organization
31 representing the presidents of the public four-year institutions of
32 higher education, the state board for community and technical
33 colleges, educational service districts, the Washington school
34 information processing cooperative, and the Washington school
35 counselor association to create a notice providing information about
36 the following programs or initiatives, including definitions and
37 eligibility criteria:

38 (a) The Washington guaranteed admissions program established in
39 section 2 of this act;

1 (b) The Washington college grant program created in RCW
2 28B.92.200;

3 (c) Dual credit programs as defined in RCW 28A.600.280;

4 (d) Career and technical education programs;

5 (e) Associate degrees and certificates;

6 (f) The free application for federal student aid; and

7 (g) The Washington application for state financial aid.

8 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
9 work with the student achievement council to disseminate the notice
10 created in subsection (1) of this section to each school district,
11 charter school, state-tribal education compact school, and
12 institutional education provider with students in grades nine through
13 12. Alternatively, the information in the notice may be incorporated
14 into high school and beyond plans created in RCW 28A.230.212.

15 (3)(a) Beginning in the 2025-26 school year, each school
16 district, charter school, state-tribal education compact school, and
17 institutional education provider with students in grades nine through
18 12 shall:

19 (i) Disseminate the notice created in subsection (1) of this
20 section to students in grades nine through 12 and their parents or
21 guardians at the beginning of the school year, but no later than
22 November of each school year. The notice may be disseminated
23 electronically; and

24 (ii) Designate a staff member or create a virtual resource for
25 students to learn more about the information contained in the notice
26 created in subsection (1) of this section.

27 (b) Beginning with the 2026-27 school year, each school district,
28 charter school, state-tribal education compact school, and
29 institutional education provider with students in grade 11 or 12
30 shall:

31 (i) Collaborate with the Washington school information processing
32 cooperative and participating public four-year institutions of higher
33 education through an organization representing the presidents of the
34 public four-year institutions of higher education to create a
35 notification about the Washington guaranteed admissions program
36 established in section 2 of this act and general admissions. The
37 notification must provide a parent or guardian of a student in grades
38 nine through 12 with an opportunity to opt the student out of the
39 Washington guaranteed admissions program; and

1 (ii) Disseminate the notice created in (b)(i) of this subsection
2 to students in grades 11 and 12 and their parents or guardians.

3 (4) The definitions in this subsection apply throughout this
4 section unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

5 (a) "Charter school" means a school established under chapter
6 28A.710 RCW.

7 (b) "Institutional education provider" has the same meaning as in
8 RCW 28A.190.005.

9 (c) "State-tribal education compact school" means a school
10 subject to chapter 28A.715 RCW.

--- END ---