

SSB 5617 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Education

ADOPTED 03/29/2023

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.245
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) An interdistrict cooperative agreement between all
6 participating school districts in a skill center under RCW
7 28A.245.010 must stipulate that any approved state and local
8 equivalency courses offered by the host school district must be
9 honored as equivalency courses by all school districts participating
10 in the skill center.

11 (2) The list of approved local and state equivalency courses of
12 the host school district must be provided by the host district to
13 participating districts on an annual basis by September 1st.

14 (3) Students served at any core, branch, or satellite skill
15 center campus must have access to academic credit for any approved
16 local or state equivalency courses offered at those sites and in
17 accordance with transcription requirements in RCW 28A.230.097.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.097 and 2019 c 221 s 2 are each amended to
19 read as follows:

20 (1) Each high school or school district board of directors shall
21 adopt course equivalencies for career and technical high school
22 courses offered to students in high schools and skill centers. A
23 career and technical course equivalency may be for whole or partial
24 credit. Each school district board of directors shall develop a
25 course equivalency approval procedure. Boards of directors must
26 approve AP computer science courses as equivalent to high school
27 mathematics or science, and must denote on a student's transcript
28 that AP computer science qualifies as a math-based quantitative
29 course for students who take the course in their senior year.

1 (2) (~~Until September 1, 2021, a school~~) School district boards
2 of directors must, at a minimum, grant academic course equivalency
3 for at least one statewide equivalency high school career and
4 technical course from the list of courses approved by the
5 superintendent of public instruction under RCW 28A.700.070.

6 (3) (a) If the list of courses is revised after the 2015-16 school
7 year, the school district board of directors must grant academic
8 course equivalency based on the revised list beginning with the
9 school year immediately following the revision.

10 (b) Each high school or school district board of directors may
11 additionally adopt local course equivalencies for career and
12 technical education courses that are not on the list of courses
13 approved by the superintendent of public instruction under RCW
14 28A.700.070 as local equivalency courses in support of RCW
15 28A.700.070.

16 (c) Approved local or state equivalency courses at any core,
17 branch, or satellite skill center must be offered for academic credit
18 to all students participating in courses at those sites.

19 (4) On and after September 1, 2021, any statewide equivalency
20 course offered by a school district or accessed at a skill center
21 must be offered for academic credit.

22 (5) Career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to
23 academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or
24 school district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements,
25 including graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the
26 student's transcript using the equivalent academic high school
27 department designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be
28 recorded as appropriate. The high school or school district shall
29 also issue and keep record of course completion certificates that
30 demonstrate that the career and technical courses were successfully
31 completed as needed for industry certification, college credit, or
32 preapprenticeship, as applicable. The certificate shall be part of
33 the student's high school and beyond plan. The office of the
34 superintendent of public instruction shall develop and make available
35 electronic samples of certificates of course completion.

36 (6) Prior to course scheduling or course registration for the
37 next school term, each public school that serves students in any of
38 grades nine through 12 must provide all students and their parents or
39 legal guardians with information about the opportunities for meeting
40 credit-based graduation requirements through equivalency courses,

1 including those available within the school district or at a skill
2 center.

3 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.300.236 and 2018 c 177 s 303 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
6 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
7 instruction must create methodologies for implementing equivalency
8 crediting on a broader scale across the state and facilitate its
9 implementation including, but not limited to, the following:

10 (a) Implementing statewide career and technical education course
11 equivalency frameworks authorized under RCW 28A.700.070 and
12 28A.230.097 for high schools and skill centers (~~(in science,~~
13 ~~technology, engineering, and mathematics)~~). This may include
14 development of additional equivalency course frameworks in core
15 subject areas, course performance assessments, and development and
16 delivery of professional development for districts and skill centers
17 implementing the career and technical education frameworks; ~~(and)~~

18 (b) Providing competitive grant funds to school districts to
19 increase the integration and rigor of academic instruction in career
20 and technical education equivalency courses. The grant funds must be
21 used to support teams of general education and career and technical
22 education teachers to convene and design course performance
23 assessments, deepen the understanding of integrating academic and
24 career and technical education in student instruction, and develop
25 professional learning modules for school districts to plan
26 implementation of equivalency crediting; and

27 (c) Conducting a review of implementation requirements of RCW
28 28A.230.097 and providing technical assistance to districts to ensure
29 state course equivalencies are being consistently offered for
30 academic credit for students at high schools and skill centers.

31 (2) Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, school districts shall
32 annually report to the office of the superintendent of public
33 instruction the following information:

34 (a) The annual number of students participating in state-approved
35 equivalency courses; and

36 (b) The annual number of state approved equivalency credit
37 courses offered in school districts and skill centers.

38 (3) Beginning December 1, 2018, and every December 1st
39 thereafter, the office of the superintendent of public instruction

1 shall annually submit the following information to the office of the
2 governor, the state board of education, and the appropriate
3 committees of the legislature:

4 (a) The selected list of equivalent career and technical
5 education courses and their curriculum frameworks that the
6 superintendent of public instruction has approved under RCW
7 28A.700.070; ~~((and))~~

8 (b) A summary of the school district information reported under
9 subsection (2) of this section; and

10 (c) A summary of implementation efforts and review findings
11 determined under subsection (1) of this section, including
12 recommendations for increasing access to equivalency coursework.

13 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.700.070 and 2018 c 191 s 1 and 2018 c 177 s 304
14 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

15 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
16 support school district efforts under RCW 28A.230.097 to adopt course
17 equivalencies for career and technical courses by:

18 (a) Recommending career and technical curriculum suitable for
19 course equivalencies;

20 (b) Publicizing best practices for high schools and school
21 districts in developing and adopting course equivalencies; and

22 (c) In consultation with the Washington association for career
23 and technical education, providing professional development,
24 technical assistance, and guidance for school districts seeking to
25 expand their lists of equivalent courses.

26 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
27 provide professional development, technical assistance, and guidance
28 for school districts to develop career and technical course
29 equivalencies that also qualify as advanced placement courses.

30 (3) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation
31 with one or more technical working groups convened for this purpose,
32 shall develop and, after an opportunity for public comment, approve
33 curriculum frameworks for a selected list of career and technical
34 courses that may be offered by high schools or skill centers whose
35 academic standards content is considered equivalent in full or in
36 part to the academic courses that meet high school graduation
37 requirements. These courses may include equivalency to English
38 language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, arts, world
39 languages, or health and physical education. The content of the

1 courses must be aligned with the most current Washington K-12
2 learning standards in English language arts, mathematics, science,
3 arts, world languages, health and physical education, social studies,
4 and required industry standards. The first list of courses under this
5 subsection must be developed and approved before the 2015-16 school
6 year. Thereafter, the superintendent of public instruction may
7 periodically update or revise the list of courses using the process
8 in this subsection.

9 (4) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the
10 superintendent of public instruction shall allocate grant funds to
11 school districts to increase the integration and rigor of academic
12 instruction in career and technical courses. Grant recipients are
13 encouraged to use grant funds to support teams of academic and
14 technical teachers. The superintendent of public instruction may
15 require that grant recipients provide matching resources using
16 federal Carl Perkins funds or other fund sources.

17 (5) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the
18 superintendent of public instruction shall convene a technical
19 working group to develop a course equivalency crosswalk for
20 technology-based competitive student activities that complies with
21 the equivalency and content requirements established in subsection
22 (3) of this section. This technical working group shall include
23 educators from school districts or educational service districts that
24 have experience with technology-based competitive student activities.
25 The superintendent of public instruction shall develop and approve
26 course equivalencies to include in the updated list established in
27 subsection (3) of this section based on the work of the technical
28 working group."

29 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Restores an expired provision requiring school district boards of directors to grant academic course equivalency for at least one statewide equivalency high school career and technical course from the list of courses approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI).

(2) Makes clarifying changes by:

(a) Modifying interdistrict cooperative agreement requirements to specify that approved state and local equivalency courses offered by the host school district of a skill center must be honored as equivalency courses by all school districts participating in the skill center;

(b) Specifying that the list of approved local and state equivalency courses that is to be provided annually must be provided by the host school district;

(c) Specifying that students served at any core, branch, or satellite skill center campus must have access to academic credit for any approved local or state equivalency courses offered at those sites and in accordance with applicable transcription requirements;

(d) Providing that approved local or state equivalency courses at any core, branch, or satellite skill center must be offered for academic credit to all students participating in courses at those sites; and

(e) Modifying notification requirements that obligate schools with students in any of grades nine through 12 to provide information to students, parents, and guardians about the opportunities that exist for meeting credit-based graduation requirements through equivalency courses.

(3) Requires the SPI to convene a technical working group to develop a course equivalency crosswalk for technology-based competitive student activities that complies with specified equivalency and content requirements.

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