
HOUSE BILL 1938

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Shavers, Ramel, Reed, and Callan

Prefiled 12/13/23. Read first time 01/08/24. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing the accessibility of academic
2 reengagement opportunities for eligible students; and amending RCW
3 28A.175.100, 28A.175.105, and 28A.175.115.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.175.100 and 2010 c 20 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) This section and RCW 28A.175.105 through 28A.175.115 provide
8 a statutory framework for a statewide dropout reengagement system to
9 provide appropriate educational opportunities and access to services
10 for eligible students (~~((age sixteen to twenty-one who have dropped~~
11 ~~out of high school or are not accumulating sufficient credits to~~
12 ~~reasonably complete a high school diploma in a public school before~~
13 ~~the age of twenty-one)) as defined in RCW 28A.175.105.~~

14 (2) Under the system, school districts may:

15 (a) Enter into the model interlocal agreement developed under RCW
16 28A.175.110 with an educational service district, community or
17 technical college, or other public entity to provide a dropout
18 reengagement program for eligible students of the district; or

19 (b) Enter into the model contract developed under RCW 28A.175.110
20 with a community-based organization to provide a dropout reengagement
21 program for eligible students of the district.

1 (3) If a school district does not enter an interlocal agreement
2 or contract with an educational service district, community or
3 technical college, other public entity, or community-based
4 organization to provide a dropout reengagement program for eligible
5 students residing in the district, the educational service district,
6 community or technical college, other public entity, or community-
7 based organization may petition a school district other than the
8 resident school district to enroll the eligible students under RCW
9 28A.225.220 through 28A.225.230 and enter the interlocal agreement or
10 contract with the petitioning entity to provide a dropout
11 reengagement program for the eligible students.

12 (4) This section does not affect the authority of school
13 districts to contract for educational services under RCW 28A.150.305
14 and 28A.320.035. This section also does not affect the authority of
15 school districts to offer dropout reengagement programs or other
16 educational services for eligible students directly.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.175.105 and 2021 c 164 s 7 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 28A.175.100
20 through 28A.175.110 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

21 (1) "Dropout reengagement program" means an educational program
22 that offers at least the following instruction and services:

23 (a) Academic instruction, including but not limited to
24 preparation to earn a high school equivalency certificate as provided
25 in RCW 28B.50.536 in accordance with rules adopted under RCW
26 28A.305.190, academic skills instruction, and college and work
27 readiness preparation, that generates credits that can be applied to
28 a high school diploma from the student's school district or from a
29 community or technical college under RCW 28B.50.535 and has the goal
30 of enabling the student to obtain the academic and work readiness
31 skills necessary for employment or postsecondary study. A dropout
32 reengagement program is not required to offer instruction in only
33 those subject areas where a student is deficient in accumulated
34 credits. Academic instruction must be provided by teachers certified
35 by the Washington professional educator standards board or by
36 instructors employed by a community or technical college whose
37 required credentials are established by the college;

1 (b) Case management, academic and career counseling, and
2 assistance with accessing services and resources that support at-risk
3 youth and reduce barriers to educational success; and

4 (c) If the program provider is a community or technical college,
5 the opportunity for qualified students to enroll in college courses
6 that lead to a postsecondary degree or certificate. The college may
7 not charge an eligible student tuition for such enrollment.

8 (2) "Eligible student" means a student who:

9 (a) Is (~~(at least sixteen but)~~) eligible to be enrolled in high
10 school and is less than (~~(twenty-one)~~) 21 years of age at the
11 beginning of the school year;

12 (b) Is not accumulating sufficient credits toward a high school
13 diploma to reasonably complete a high school diploma from a public
14 school before the age of (~~(twenty-one)~~) 21, or is recommended for the
15 program by case managers from the department of social and health
16 services or the juvenile justice system; and

17 (c) Is enrolled or enrolls in the school district in which the
18 student resides, or is enrolled or enrolls in an institutional
19 education program as defined in RCW 28A.190.005 or a nonresident
20 school district under RCW 28A.225.220 through 28A.225.230.

21 (3) "Full-time equivalent eligible student" means an eligible
22 student whose enrollment and attendance meet criteria adopted by the
23 office of the superintendent of public instruction specifically for
24 dropout reengagement programs. The criteria shall be:

25 (a) Based on the community or technical college credits generated
26 by the student if the program provider is a community or technical
27 college; and

28 (b) Based on a minimum amount of planned programming or
29 instruction and minimum attendance by the student rather than hours
30 of seat time if the program provider is a community-based
31 organization.

32 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.175.115 and 2010 c 20 s 5 are each amended to
33 read as follows:

34 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
35 adopt and amend as necessary rules to implement RCW 28A.175.100
36 through 28A.175.110.

37 (2) When adopting rules under this section and developing model
38 interlocal agreements and contracts under RCW 28A.175.110, the office
39 of the superintendent of public instruction shall consult with the

1 state board for community and technical colleges, the workforce
2 training and education coordinating board, colleges and community-
3 based organizations that have previously offered dropout reengagement
4 programs, providers of online courses and programs approved under RCW
5 28A.250.020, school districts, and educational service districts.

--- END ---