
HOUSE BILL 1524

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representative Orwall

Read first time 01/25/11. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to recognizing the international baccalaureate
2 diploma; amending RCW 28A.230.170; reenacting and amending RCW
3 28A.230.090; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.230 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) A student who fulfills the requirements specified in subsection
8 (3) of this section toward completion of an international baccalaureate
9 diploma programme is considered to have satisfied state minimum
10 requirements for graduation from a public high school, except that:

11 (a) The provisions of RCW 28A.655.061 regarding the certificate of
12 academic achievement or RCW 28A.155.045 regarding the certificate of
13 individual achievement apply to students under this section; and

14 (b) The provisions of RCW 28A.230.170 regarding study of the United
15 States Constitution and the Washington state Constitution apply to
16 students under this section.

17 (2) School districts may require students under this section to
18 complete local graduation requirements that are in addition to state
19 minimum requirements before issuing a high school diploma under RCW

1 28A.230.120. However, school districts are encouraged to waive local
2 requirements as necessary to encourage students to pursue an
3 international baccalaureate diploma.

4 (3) To receive a high school diploma under this section, a student
5 must complete and pass all required international baccalaureate diploma
6 programme courses, submit and pass all internal assessments,
7 successfully complete all required projects and products, and complete
8 the final examinations administered by the international baccalaureate
9 organization in each of the required subjects under the diploma
10 programme.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2009 c 548 s 111 and 2009 c 223 s 2
12 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

13 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
14 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as
15 provided in section 1 of this act and except those equivalencies
16 established by local high schools or school districts under RCW
17 28A.230.097. The purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that
18 a student is ready for success in postsecondary education, gainful
19 employment, and citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a
20 lifelong learner.

21 (a) Any course in Washington state history and government used to
22 fulfill high school graduation requirements shall consider including
23 information on the culture, history, and government of the American
24 Indian peoples who were the first inhabitants of the state.

25 (b) The certificate of academic achievement requirements under RCW
26 28A.655.061 or the certificate of individual achievement requirements
27 under RCW 28A.155.045 are required for graduation from a public high
28 school but are not the only requirements for graduation.

29 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's
30 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan
31 shall remain at the local level.

32 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state board
33 of education to establish and enforce minimum high school graduation
34 requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate the
35 graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
36 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

37 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements

1 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career and
2 technical education programs, particularly those programs that lead to
3 a certificate or credential that is state or nationally recognized.
4 The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students enrolled in
5 these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a certificate of
6 academic achievement, complete the program and earn the program's
7 certificate or credential, and complete other state and local
8 graduation requirements.

9 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the high
10 school graduation requirements to the education committees of the
11 legislature for review and to the quality education council established
12 under RCW 28A.290.010. The legislature shall have the opportunity to
13 act during a regular legislative session before the changes are adopted
14 through administrative rule by the state board. Changes that have a
15 fiscal impact on school districts, as identified by a fiscal analysis
16 prepared by the office of the superintendent of public instruction,
17 shall take effect only if formally authorized and funded by the
18 legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or other enacted
19 legislation.

20 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages other
21 than English established by the state board of education or a local
22 school district, or both, for purposes of high school graduation,
23 students who receive instruction in American sign language or one or
24 more American Indian languages shall be considered to have satisfied
25 the state or local school district graduation requirement for
26 instruction in one or more languages other than English.

27 (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a student
28 who has completed high school courses before attending high school
29 shall be given high school credit which shall be applied to fulfilling
30 high school graduation requirements if:

31 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the academic
32 level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and eighth
33 grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by completing
34 the same course requirements and examinations as the high school
35 students enrolled in the class; or

36 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for
37 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for high

1 school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a course
2 offered at a high school in the district as determined by the school
3 district board of directors.

4 (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high school
5 courses under the circumstances in subsection (4) of this section shall
6 not be required to take an additional competency examination or perform
7 any other additional assignment to receive credit.

8 (6) At the college or university level, five quarter or three
9 semester hours equals one high school credit.

10 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.170 and 2006 c 263 s 403 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 The study of the Constitution of the United States and the
13 Constitution of the state of Washington shall be a condition
14 prerequisite to graduation from the public and private high schools of
15 this state. The superintendent of public instruction shall provide by
16 rule for the implementation of this section. The superintendent of
17 public instruction may adopt a rule permitting students who meet the
18 criteria in section 1 of this act to meet the prerequisite through
19 noncredit-based study.

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