
SENATE BILL 6291

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Becker, Angel, Rivers, Sheldon, and Liias

Read first time 01/14/16. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to using weighted grade point averages for
2 accelerated courses; amending RCW 28A.230.125; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that there has been
6 significant legislative action providing opportunities for academic
7 acceleration of students. The legislature further finds that school
8 districts have been encouraged to adopt a policy to automatically
9 enroll a student in the most rigorous advanced course in a subject
10 with the objective that students eventually enroll in dual credit
11 classes. The legislature recognizes that there are still
12 disincentives for students to take more challenging coursework such
13 as honors, AP, or IB courses. The legislature acknowledges that one
14 disincentive is that the standardized high school transcript does not
15 permit the option to use a weighted grade point average so there is
16 no distinction between regular coursework and accelerated coursework
17 on a transcript. The legislature intends to remove this disincentive
18 by providing the option for school districts to use a weighted grade
19 point average to appropriately recognize student achievement in
20 accelerated courses.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.125 and 2014 c 102 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 (1) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation
4 with the four-year institutions as defined in RCW 28B.76.020, the
5 state board for community and technical colleges, and the workforce
6 training and education coordinating board, shall develop for use by
7 all public school districts a standardized high school transcript.
8 The superintendent shall establish clear definitions for the terms
9 "credits" and "hours" so that school programs operating on the
10 quarter, semester, or trimester system can be compared.

11 (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include the
12 following:

13 (a) A notation of whether the student has earned a certificate of
14 individual achievement or a certificate of academic achievement; and

15 (b) The option of using a weighted grade point average to
16 recognize accelerated coursework.

17 (3) The standardized high school transcript may include a
18 notation of whether the student has earned the Washington state seal
19 of biliteracy established under RCW 28A.300.575.

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