
HOUSE BILL 1509

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Stonier, Harris, Dolan, Caldier, Ormsby, Volz, Stanford, McCaslin, Riccelli, Holy, Pollet, Taylor, Doglio, Shea, Sawyer, Peterson, Gregerson, Sells, Tharinger, Farrell, Orcutt, and Santos

Read first time 01/23/17. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to credit requirements for high school
2 graduation; and amending RCW 28A.150.220 and 28A.230.090.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.150.220 and 2014 c 217 s 201 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) In order for students to have the opportunity to develop the
7 basic education knowledge and skills under RCW 28A.150.210, school
8 districts must provide instruction of sufficient quantity and quality
9 and give students the opportunity to complete graduation requirements
10 that are intended to prepare them for postsecondary education,
11 gainful employment, and citizenship. The program established under
12 this section shall be the minimum instructional program of basic
13 education offered by school districts.

14 (2) Each school district shall make available to students the
15 following minimum instructional offering each school year:

16 (a) For students enrolled in grades one through twelve, at least
17 a district-wide annual average of one thousand hours, which shall be
18 increased beginning in the 2015-16 school year to at least one
19 thousand eighty instructional hours for students enrolled in grades
20 nine through twelve and at least one thousand instructional hours for
21 students in grades one through eight, all of which may be calculated

1 by a school district using a district-wide annual average of
2 instructional hours over grades one through twelve; and

3 (b) For students enrolled in kindergarten, at least four hundred
4 fifty instructional hours, which shall be increased to at least one
5 thousand instructional hours according to the implementation schedule
6 under RCW 28A.150.315.

7 (3) The instructional program of basic education provided by each
8 school district shall include:

9 (a) Instruction in the essential academic learning requirements
10 under RCW 28A.655.070;

11 (b) Instruction that provides students the opportunity to
12 complete ~~((twenty-four))~~ all credits required for high school
13 graduation~~(, beginning with the graduating class of 2019 or as~~
14 ~~otherwise provided in RCW 28A.230.090. Course distribution~~
15 ~~requirements may be established by the state board of education under~~
16 ~~RCW 28A.230.090))~~;

17 (c) If the essential academic learning requirements include a
18 requirement of languages other than English, the requirement may be
19 met by students receiving instruction in one or more American Indian
20 languages;

21 (d) Supplemental instruction and services for underachieving
22 students through the learning assistance program under RCW
23 28A.165.005 through 28A.165.065;

24 (e) Supplemental instruction and services for eligible and
25 enrolled students and exited students whose primary language is other
26 than English through the transitional bilingual instruction program
27 under RCW 28A.180.010 through 28A.180.080;

28 (f) The opportunity for an appropriate education at public
29 expense as defined by RCW 28A.155.020 for all eligible students with
30 disabilities as defined in RCW 28A.155.020; and

31 (g) Programs for highly capable students under RCW 28A.185.010
32 through 28A.185.030.

33 (4) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to
34 require individual students to attend school for any particular
35 number of hours per day or to take any particular courses.

36 (5)(a) Each school district's kindergarten through twelfth grade
37 basic educational program shall be accessible to all students who are
38 five years of age, as provided by RCW 28A.225.160, and less than
39 twenty-one years of age and shall consist of a minimum of one hundred
40 eighty school days per school year in such grades as are conducted by

1 a school district, and one hundred eighty half-days of instruction,
2 or equivalent, in kindergarten, to be increased to a minimum of one
3 hundred eighty school days per school year according to the
4 implementation schedule under RCW 28A.150.315.

5 (b) Schools administering the Washington kindergarten inventory
6 of developing skills may use up to three school days at the beginning
7 of the school year to meet with parents and families as required in
8 the parent involvement component of the inventory.

9 (c) In the case of students who are graduating from high school,
10 a school district may schedule the last five school days of the one
11 hundred eighty day school year for noninstructional purposes
12 including, but not limited to, the observance of graduation and early
13 release from school upon the request of a student. All such students
14 may be claimed as a full-time equivalent student to the extent they
15 could otherwise have been so claimed for the purposes of RCW
16 28A.150.250 and 28A.150.260. Any hours scheduled by a school district
17 for noninstructional purposes during the last five school days for
18 such students shall count toward the instructional hours requirement
19 in subsection (2)(a) of this section.

20 (6) Nothing in this section precludes a school district from
21 enriching the instructional program of basic education, such as
22 offering additional instruction or providing additional services,
23 programs, or activities that the school district determines to be
24 appropriate for the education of the school district's students.

25 (7) The state board of education shall adopt rules to implement
26 and ensure compliance with the program requirements imposed by this
27 section, RCW 28A.150.250 and 28A.150.260, and such related
28 supplemental program approval requirements as the state board may
29 establish.

30 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 2016 c 162 s 2 are each amended to
31 read as follows:

32 (1) The state board of education shall establish high school
33 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students, except as
34 provided in RCW 28A.230.122 and except those equivalencies
35 established by local high schools or school districts under RCW
36 28A.230.097. The purpose of a high school diploma is to declare that
37 a student is ready for success in postsecondary education, gainful
38 employment, and citizenship, and is equipped with the skills to be a
39 lifelong learner.

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

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

9 (c) Any decision on whether a student has met the state board's
10 high school graduation requirements for a high school and beyond plan
11 shall remain at the local level. Effective with the graduating class
12 of 2015, the state board of education may not establish a requirement
13 for students to complete a culminating project for graduation.

14 (d)(i) The state board of education shall adopt rules to
15 implement the career and college ready graduation requirement
16 proposal adopted under board resolution on November 10, 2010, and
17 revised on January 9, 2014, to take effect beginning with the
18 graduating class of 2019 or as otherwise provided in this subsection
19 (1)(d). The rules must include authorization for a school district to
20 waive up to two credits for individual students based on unusual
21 circumstances and in accordance with written policies that must be
22 adopted by each board of directors of a school district that grants
23 diplomas. The rules must ((also)) provide that the content of the
24 third credit of mathematics ((and the content of the third credit of
25 science)) may be chosen by the student based on the student's
26 interests and high school and beyond plan with agreement of the
27 student's parent or guardian or agreement of the school counselor or
28 principal. The rules must also provide that the subject credit
29 requirements be as follows:

| <u>Courses</u> | <u>Required credits</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>English</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Mathematics</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Science</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Social studies</u> | <u>3</u> |
| <u>Arts</u> | <u>1</u> |
| <u>Health and fitness</u> | <u>2</u> |
| <u>Career and technical education</u> | <u>1</u> |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | <u>Electives</u> | <u>4</u> |
| 2 | <u>World languages or</u> | |
| 3 | <u>personalized pathway</u> | |
| 4 | <u>requirements</u> | <u>2</u> |
| 5 | <u>Total required credits:</u> | <u>21</u> |

6 (ii) School districts may apply to the state board of education
7 for a waiver to implement the career and college ready graduation
8 requirement proposal beginning with the graduating class of 2020 or
9 2021 instead of the graduating class of 2019. In the application, a
10 school district must describe why the waiver is being requested, the
11 specific impediments preventing timely implementation, and efforts
12 that will be taken to achieve implementation with the graduating
13 class proposed under the waiver. The state board of education shall
14 grant a waiver under this subsection (1)(d) to an applying school
15 district at the next subsequent meeting of the board after receiving
16 an application.

17 (2)(a) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state
18 board of education to establish and enforce minimum high school
19 graduation requirements, the state board shall periodically
20 reevaluate the graduation requirements and shall report such findings
21 to the legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state
22 board.

23 (b) The state board shall reevaluate the graduation requirements
24 for students enrolled in vocationally intensive and rigorous career
25 and technical education programs, particularly those programs that
26 lead to a certificate or credential that is state or nationally
27 recognized. The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that students
28 enrolled in these programs have sufficient opportunity to earn a
29 certificate of academic achievement, complete the program and earn
30 the program's certificate or credential, and complete other state and
31 local graduation requirements.

32 (c) The state board shall forward any proposed changes to the
33 high school graduation requirements to the education committees of
34 the legislature for review. The legislature shall have the
35 opportunity to act during a regular legislative session before the
36 changes are adopted through administrative rule by the state board.
37 Changes that have a fiscal impact on school districts, as identified
38 by a fiscal analysis prepared by the office of the superintendent of
39 public instruction, shall take effect only if formally authorized and

1 funded by the legislature through the omnibus appropriations act or
2 other enacted legislation.

3 (3) Pursuant to any requirement for instruction in languages
4 other than English established by the state board of education or a
5 local school district, or both, for purposes of high school
6 graduation, students who receive instruction in American sign
7 language or one or more American Indian languages shall be considered
8 to have satisfied the state or local school district graduation
9 requirement for instruction in one or more languages other than
10 English.

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

15 (a) The course was taken with high school students, if the
16 academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for seventh and
17 eighth grade classes, and the student has successfully passed by
18 completing the same course requirements and examinations as the high
19 school students enrolled in the class; or

20 (b) The academic level of the course exceeds the requirements for
21 seventh and eighth grade classes and the course would qualify for
22 high school credit, because the course is similar or equivalent to a
23 course offered at a high school in the district as determined by the
24 school district board of directors.

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

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

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