AN ACT Relating to addressing equity in access to dual credit opportunities; and amending RCW 28A.600.310.

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

Sec. 1. RCW 28A.600.310 and 2015 c 202 s 4 are each amended to read as follows:

(1)(a) Eleventh and twelfth grade students or students who have not yet received the credits required for the award of a high school diploma and are eligible to be in the eleventh or twelfth grades may apply to a participating institution of higher education to enroll in courses or programs offered by the institution of higher education.

(b) The course sections and programs offered as running start courses must also be open for registration to matriculated students at the participating institution of higher education and may not be a course consisting solely of high school students offered at a high school campus.

(c) A student receiving home-based instruction enrolling in a public high school for the sole purpose of participating in courses or programs offered by institutions of higher education shall not be counted by the school district in any required state or federal accountability reporting if the student's parents or guardians filed a declaration of intent to provide home-based instruction and the
student received home-based instruction during the school year before
the school year in which the student intends to participate in
courses or programs offered by the institution of higher education.
Students receiving home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW
and students attending private schools approved under chapter 28A.195
RCW shall not be required to meet the student learning goals, obtain
a certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual
achievement to graduate from high school, or to master the essential
academic learning requirements. However, students are eligible to
enroll in courses or programs in participating universities only if
the board of directors of the student's school district has decided
to participate in the program. Participating institutions of higher
education, in consultation with school districts, may establish
admission standards for these students. If the institution of higher
education accepts a secondary school pupil for enrollment under this
section, the institution of higher education shall send written
notice to the pupil and the pupil's school district within ten days
of acceptance. The notice shall indicate the course and hours of
enrollment for that pupil.

(2)(a) In lieu of tuition and fees, as defined in RCW 28B.15.020
and 28B.15.041:

(i) Running start students shall pay to the community or
technical college all other mandatory fees as established by each
community or technical college and, in addition, the state board for
community and technical colleges may authorize a fee of up to ten
percent of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and
28B.15.041; and

(ii) All other institutions of higher education operating a
running start program may charge running start students a fee of up
to ten percent of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 and
28B.15.041 in addition to technology fees.

(b) The fees charged under this subsection (2) shall be prorated
based on credit load.

(c) Students may pay fees under this subsection with advanced
college tuition payment program tuition units at a rate set by the
advanced college tuition payment program governing body under chapter
28B.95 RCW.

(3)(a) The institutions of higher education must make available
fee waivers for low-income running start students. Each institution
must establish a written policy for the determination of low-income
students before offering the fee waiver. A student shall be
considered low income and eligible for a fee waiver upon proof that
the student is currently qualified to receive free or reduced-price
lunch. Acceptable documentation of low-income status may also
include, but is not limited to, documentation that a student has been
deemed eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in the last five
years, or other criteria established in the institution's policy.

(b) School districts, upon knowledge of a low-income student's
enrollment in running start, must coordinate with institutions of
higher education to provide documentation of low-income status under
(a) of this subsection.

(c) Institutions of higher education, in collaboration with
relevant student associations, shall aim to have students who can
benefit from fee waivers take advantage of these waivers.
Institutions shall make every effort to communicate to students and
their families the benefits of the waivers and provide assistance to
students and their families on how to apply. Information about
waivers shall, to the greatest extent possible, be incorporated into
financial aid counseling, admission information, and individual
billing statements. Institutions also shall, to the greatest extent
possible, use all means of communication, including but not limited
to web sites, online catalogues, admission and registration forms,
mass email messaging, social media, and outside marketing to ensure
that information about waivers is visible, compelling, and reaches
the maximum number of students and families that can benefit.

(4) The pupil's school district shall transmit to the institution
of higher education an amount per each full-time equivalent college
student at statewide uniform rates for vocational and nonvocational
students. The superintendent of public instruction shall separately
calculate and allocate moneys appropriated for basic education under
RCW 28A.150.260 to school districts for purposes of making such
payments and for granting school districts seven percent thereof to
offset program related costs. The calculations and allocations shall
be based upon the estimated statewide annual average per full-time
equivalent high school student allocations under RCW 28A.150.260,
excluding small high school enhancements, and applicable rules
adopted under chapter 34.05 RCW. The superintendent of public
instruction, participating institutions of higher education, and the
state board for community and technical colleges shall consult on the
calculation and distribution of the funds. The funds received by the
institute of higher education from the school district shall not be
deemed tuition or operating fees and may be retained by the
institute of higher education. A student enrolled under this
subsection shall be counted for the purpose of meeting enrollment
targets in accordance with terms and conditions specified in the
omnibus appropriations act.

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