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**SENATE BILL 5299**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2021 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Wellman, Kuderer, Hunt, Mullet, Nguyen, and Wilson, C.

Read first time 01/20/21. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the use of computer science credits for the  
2 purpose of graduation requirements; and amending RCW 28A.230.300.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.230.300 and 2019 c 180 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Beginning no later than the 2022-23 school year, each school  
7 district that operates a high school must, at a minimum, provide an  
8 opportunity to access an elective computer science course that is  
9 available to all high school students. School districts are  
10 encouraged to consider community-based or public-private partnerships  
11 in establishing and administering a course, but any course offered in  
12 accordance with this section must be aligned to the state learning  
13 standards for computer science or mathematics.

14 (2) In accordance with the requirements of this section,  
15 beginning in the 2019-20 school year, school districts may award  
16 academic credit for computer science to students based on student  
17 completion of a competency examination that is aligned with the state  
18 learning standards for computer science or mathematics and course  
19 equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the superintendent  
20 of public instruction to implement this section. Each school district  
21 board of directors in districts that award credit under this

1 subsection shall develop a written policy for awarding such credit  
2 that includes:

3 (a) A course equivalency approval procedure;

4 (b) Procedures for awarding competency-based credit for skills  
5 learned partially or wholly outside of a course; and

6 (c) An approval process for computer science courses taken before  
7 attending high school under RCW 28A.230.090 (4) and (5).

8 (3) Prior to the use of any competency examination under this  
9 section that may be used to award academic credit to students, the  
10 office of the superintendent of public instruction must review the  
11 examination to ensure its alignment with:

12 (a) The state learning standards for computer science or  
13 mathematics; and

14 (b) Course equivalency requirements adopted by the office of the  
15 superintendent of public instruction to implement this section.

16 (4) (a) Upon agreement of the student's parent or guardian or  
17 agreement of the school counselor or principal, a student may  
18 substitute an approved computer science course for a third year  
19 mathematics or science course for the purposes of graduation  
20 requirements under RCW 28A.230.090.

21 (b) An approved computer science course substituted by a student  
22 for a third year mathematics or science course under (a) of this  
23 subsection must be aligned with the student's high school and beyond  
24 plan.

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