
Appropriations Committee

HB 2441

Brief Description: Establishing a pilot program eliminating college in the high school fees for private not-for-profit four-year institutions.

Sponsors: Representatives Corry, Slatter, Stokesbary, Leavitt and Jacobsen.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishes a pilot program for private not-for-profit institutions to offer College in the High School courses for free to students.

Hearing Date: 2/3/24

Staff: Kate Henry (786-7349).

Background:

College in the High School (CHS) programs provide college-level courses in high schools or high school environments to qualified students who are in or are eligible for enrollment in grades 9 through 12. Students who participate in a CHS program are able to earn both high school and postsecondary credit by completing postsecondary level courses with a passing grade. Programs are established in individual agreements between the schools and colleges or universities.

"Institutions of higher education" is defined in statute as the state universities, the regional universities, The Evergreen State College, and community and technical colleges.

Institutions of higher education offering CHS must:

- provide evidence of completion of each program course on the student's college transcripts;
- grant undergraduate college credit as appropriate and applicable to the student's degree

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- requirements; and
- provide course equivalencies for CHS courses and policy for awarding credit on the institution's website.

In the 2023 session Chapter 314, Laws of 2023 (2SSB 5048) was enacted which changed the funding structure for CHS courses. Beginning September 1, 2023, institutions of higher education must provide enrollment and registration in CHS courses at no cost for students in grades 9 through 12 at public high schools.

Beginning with the 2023-2025 State Omnibus Operating Appropriations Act (operating budget), the Legislature must appropriate state funding for CHS courses administered at public secondary schools. State appropriation must be calculated using the total CHS courses administered in the prior academic year, funded at \$300 per student up to a maximum rate of:

- \$6,000 per CHS course administered by a state university;
- \$5,000 per CHS course administered by a regional university or the state college; or
- \$3,500 per CHS course administered by a community or technical college.

Summary of Bill:

Three private, not-for-profit four-year institutions that serve rural or underserved communities, selected by the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) may participate in a pilot program to offer College in the High School courses at no cost to students at public high schools. The WSAC must distribute funds at a rate of \$300 per student up to a maximum of \$6,000 per course to each pilot institution. The pilot institutions must provide annual information starting November 1, 2025, including:

- College in the High School courses offered, by name, number, specific location offered, and student enrollment information disaggregated by school district and high school;
- data on College in the High School student demographics;
- awards of postsecondary credit at the pilot institution; and
- the academic performance of students taking the offered College in the High School courses.

The WSAC must compile the information submitted by the pilot institutions and submit an annual report to the Legislature beginning December 1, 2025.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.