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**SENATE BILL 5527**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Mullet, Boehnke, Wellman, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/23/23. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to adding additional courses to the list of  
2 courses approved as a graduation pathway option; and amending RCW  
3 28A.655.250.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.250 and 2021 c 7 s 3 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1)(a) Beginning with the class of 2020, except as provided in  
8 RCW 28A.230.320, graduation from a public high school and the earning  
9 of a high school diploma must include the following:

10 (i) Satisfying the graduation requirements established by the  
11 state board of education under RCW 28A.230.090 and any graduation  
12 requirements established by the applicable public high school or  
13 school district;

14 (ii) Satisfying credit requirements for graduation;

15 (iii) Demonstrating career and college readiness through  
16 completion of the high school and beyond plan as required by RCW  
17 28A.230.090; and

18 (iv) Meeting the requirements of at least one graduation pathway  
19 option established in this section. The pathway options established  
20 in this section are intended to provide a student with multiple  
21 pathways to graduating with a meaningful high school diploma that are

1 tailored to the goals of the student. A student may choose to pursue  
2 one or more of the pathway options under (b) of this subsection, but  
3 any pathway option used by a student to demonstrate career and  
4 college readiness must be in alignment with the student's high school  
5 and beyond plan.

6 (b) The following graduation pathway options may be used to  
7 demonstrate career and college readiness in accordance with (a)(iv)  
8 of this subsection:

9 (i) Meet or exceed the graduation standard established by the  
10 state board of education under RCW 28A.305.130 on the statewide high  
11 school assessments in English language arts and mathematics as  
12 provided for under RCW 28A.655.070;

13 (ii) Complete and qualify for college credit in dual credit  
14 courses in English language arts and mathematics. For the purposes of  
15 this subsection, "dual credit course" means a course in which a  
16 student qualifies for college and high school credit in English  
17 language arts or mathematics upon successfully completing the course;

18 (iii) Earn high school credit in a high school transition course  
19 in English language arts and mathematics, an example of which  
20 includes a bridge to college course. For the purposes of this  
21 subsection (1)(b)(iii), "high school transition course" means an  
22 English language arts or mathematics course offered in high school  
23 where successful completion by a high school student ensures the  
24 student college-level placement at participating institutions of  
25 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016. High school transition  
26 courses must satisfy core or elective credit graduation requirements  
27 established by the state board of education. A student's successful  
28 completion of a high school transition course does not entitle the  
29 student to be admitted to an institution of higher education as  
30 defined in RCW 28B.10.016;

31 (iv) Earn high school credit, with a C+ grade, or receiving a  
32 three or higher on the AP exam, or equivalent, in AP, international  
33 baccalaureate, or Cambridge international courses in English language  
34 arts and mathematics; or receiving a four or higher on international  
35 baccalaureate exams. For English language arts, successfully  
36 completing any of the following courses meets the standard: AP  
37 English language and composition literature, macroeconomics,  
38 microeconomics, psychology, United States history, world history,  
39 European history, United States government and politics, ~~((~~or~~))~~  
40 comparative government and politics, seminar, or seminar: English,

1 research, or African American studies; or any of the international  
2 baccalaureate individuals and societies courses. For mathematics,  
3 successfully completing any of the following courses meets the  
4 standard: AP statistics, computer science, computer science  
5 principles, precalculus, or calculus; or any of the international  
6 baccalaureate mathematics courses;

7 (v) Meet or exceed the scores established by the state board of  
8 education for the mathematics portion and the reading, English, or  
9 writing portion of the SAT or ACT;

10 (vi) Meet any combination of at least one English language arts  
11 option and at least one mathematics option established in (b)(i)  
12 through (v) of this subsection (1);

13 (vii) Meet standard in the armed services vocational aptitude  
14 battery; and

15 (viii) Complete a sequence of career and technical education  
16 courses that are relevant to a student's postsecondary pathway,  
17 including those leading to workforce entry, state or nationally  
18 approved apprenticeships, or postsecondary education, and that meet  
19 either: The curriculum requirements of core plus programs for  
20 aerospace, maritime, health care, information technology, or  
21 construction and manufacturing; or the minimum criteria identified in  
22 RCW 28A.700.030. Nothing in this subsection (1)(b)(viii) requires a  
23 student to enroll in a preparatory course that is approved under RCW  
24 28A.700.030 for the purposes of demonstrating career and college  
25 readiness under this section.

26 (2) While the legislature encourages school districts to make all  
27 pathway options established in this section available to their high  
28 school students, and to expand their pathway options until that goal  
29 is met, school districts have discretion in determining which pathway  
30 options under this section they will offer to students.

31 (3) The state board of education shall adopt rules to implement  
32 the graduation pathway options established in this section.

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