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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5617**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Wellman, Nguyen, Hasegawa, Llias, Lovelett, Nobles, and C. Wilson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/14/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to career and technical education course  
2 equivalencies; amending RCW 28A.230.097 and 28A.300.236; reenacting  
3 and amending RCW 28A.700.070; and adding a new section to chapter  
4 28A.245 RCW.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.245  
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) An interdistrict cooperative agreement between all  
9 participating school districts in a skill center under RCW  
10 28A.245.010 must stipulate that any course equivalencies approved  
11 under RCW 28A.700.070 or adopted local course equivalencies approved  
12 by the host district must be honored by other participating school  
13 districts.

14 (2) The list of approved local and state equivalency courses must  
15 be provided to participating districts on an annual basis by  
16 September 1st.

17 (3) Students served at any core, branch, or satellite skill  
18 center campus must have access to academic credit for any approved  
19 local or state equivalency courses following transcription  
20 requirements as outlined in RCW 28A.230.097.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.097 and 2019 c 221 s 2 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Each high school or school district board of directors shall  
4 adopt course equivalencies for career and technical high school  
5 courses offered to students in high schools and skill centers. A  
6 career and technical course equivalency may be for whole or partial  
7 credit. Each school district board of directors shall develop a  
8 course equivalency approval procedure. Boards of directors must  
9 approve AP computer science courses as equivalent to high school  
10 mathematics or science, and must denote on a student's transcript  
11 that AP computer science qualifies as a math-based quantitative  
12 course for students who take the course in their senior year.

13       (2) Until September 1, 2021, a school district board of directors  
14 must, at a minimum, grant academic course equivalency for at least  
15 one statewide equivalency high school career and technical course  
16 from the list of courses approved by the superintendent of public  
17 instruction under RCW 28A.700.070.

18       (3) (a) If the list of courses is revised after the 2015-16 school  
19 year, the school district board of directors must grant academic  
20 course equivalency based on the revised list beginning with the  
21 school year immediately following the revision.

22       (b) Each high school or school district board of directors may  
23 additionally adopt local course equivalencies for career and  
24 technical education courses that are not on the list of courses  
25 approved by the superintendent of public instruction under RCW  
26 28A.700.070 as local equivalency courses in support of RCW  
27 28A.700.070.

28       (c) Approved local or state equivalency courses at any core,  
29 branch, or satellite skill center must be offered for academic credit  
30 for all enrolled students from participating districts.

31       (4) On and after September 1, 2021, any statewide equivalency  
32 course offered by a school district or accessed at a skill center  
33 must be offered for academic credit.

34       (5) Career and technical courses determined to be equivalent to  
35 academic core courses, in full or in part, by the high school or  
36 school district shall be accepted as meeting core requirements,  
37 including graduation requirements, if the courses are recorded on the  
38 student's transcript using the equivalent academic high school  
39 department designation and title. Full or partial credit shall be  
40 recorded as appropriate. The high school or school district shall

1 also issue and keep record of course completion certificates that  
2 demonstrate that the career and technical courses were successfully  
3 completed as needed for industry certification, college credit, or  
4 preapprenticeship, as applicable. The certificate shall be part of  
5 the student's high school and beyond plan. The office of the  
6 superintendent of public instruction shall develop and make available  
7 electronic samples of certificates of course completion.

8 (6) Prior to course scheduling or course registration for the  
9 next school term, each public school that serves students in any  
10 grades nine through 12 must notify all students and their parents or  
11 legal guardians of the opportunities that exist for students to meet  
12 credit-based graduation requirements through equivalency courses,  
13 including those available within the school district or at a skill  
14 center.

15 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.300.236 and 2018 c 177 s 303 are each amended to  
16 read as follows:

17 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
18 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public  
19 instruction must create methodologies for implementing equivalency  
20 crediting on a broader scale across the state and facilitate its  
21 implementation including, but not limited to, the following:

22 (a) Implementing statewide career and technical education course  
23 equivalency frameworks authorized under RCW 28A.700.070 and  
24 28A.230.097 for high schools and skill centers (~~(in science,~~  
25 ~~technology, engineering, and mathematics)~~). This may include  
26 development of additional equivalency course frameworks in core  
27 subject areas, course performance assessments, and development and  
28 delivery of professional development for districts and skill centers  
29 implementing the career and technical education frameworks; ~~(and)~~

30 (b) Providing competitive grant funds to school districts to  
31 increase the integration and rigor of academic instruction in career  
32 and technical education equivalency courses. The grant funds must be  
33 used to support teams of general education and career and technical  
34 education teachers to convene and design course performance  
35 assessments, deepen the understanding of integrating academic and  
36 career and technical education in student instruction, and develop  
37 professional learning modules for school districts to plan  
38 implementation of equivalency crediting; and

1 (c) Conducting a review of implementation requirements of RCW  
2 28A.230.097 and providing technical assistance to districts to ensure  
3 state course equivalencies are being consistently offered for  
4 academic credit for students at high schools and skill centers.

5 (2) Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, school districts shall  
6 annually report to the office of the superintendent of public  
7 instruction the following information:

8 (a) The annual number of students participating in state-approved  
9 equivalency courses; and

10 (b) The annual number of state approved equivalency credit  
11 courses offered in school districts and skill centers.

12 (3) Beginning December 1, 2018, and every December 1st  
13 thereafter, the office of the superintendent of public instruction  
14 shall annually submit the following information to the office of the  
15 governor, the state board of education, and the appropriate  
16 committees of the legislature:

17 (a) The selected list of equivalent career and technical  
18 education courses and their curriculum frameworks that the  
19 superintendent of public instruction has approved under RCW  
20 28A.700.070; ~~(and)~~

21 (b) A summary of the school district information reported under  
22 subsection (2) of this section; and

23 (c) A summary of implementation efforts and review findings  
24 determined under subsection (1) of this section, including  
25 recommendations for increasing access to equivalency coursework.

26 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.700.070 and 2018 c 191 s 1 and 2018 c 177 s 304  
27 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

28 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
29 support school district efforts under RCW 28A.230.097 to adopt course  
30 equivalencies for career and technical courses by:

31 (a) Recommending career and technical curriculum suitable for  
32 course equivalencies;

33 (b) Publicizing best practices for high schools and school  
34 districts in developing and adopting course equivalencies; and

35 (c) In consultation with the Washington association for career  
36 and technical education, providing professional development,  
37 technical assistance, and guidance for school districts seeking to  
38 expand their lists of equivalent courses.

1 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
2 provide professional development, technical assistance, and guidance  
3 for school districts to develop career and technical course  
4 equivalencies that also qualify as advanced placement courses.

5 (3) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation  
6 with one or more technical working groups convened for this purpose,  
7 shall develop and, after an opportunity for public comment, approve  
8 curriculum frameworks for a selected list of career and technical  
9 courses that may be offered by high schools or skill centers whose  
10 academic standards content is considered equivalent in full or in  
11 part to the academic courses that meet high school graduation  
12 requirements. These courses may include equivalency to English  
13 language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, arts, world  
14 languages, or health and physical education. The content of the  
15 courses must be aligned with the most current Washington K-12  
16 learning standards in English language arts, mathematics, science,  
17 arts, world languages, health and physical education, social studies,  
18 and required industry standards. The first list of courses under this  
19 subsection must be developed and approved before the 2015-16 school  
20 year. Thereafter, the superintendent of public instruction may  
21 periodically update or revise the list of courses using the process  
22 in this subsection.

23 (4) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the  
24 superintendent of public instruction shall allocate grant funds to  
25 school districts to increase the integration and rigor of academic  
26 instruction in career and technical courses. Grant recipients are  
27 encouraged to use grant funds to support teams of academic and  
28 technical teachers. The superintendent of public instruction may  
29 require that grant recipients provide matching resources using  
30 federal Carl Perkins funds or other fund sources.

31 (5) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the  
32 superintendent of public instruction shall convene a technical  
33 working group to determine potential equivalency development of  
34 coursework for technology-based competitive student activities in  
35 alignment with the arts and other content areas as applicable. This  
36 technical working group shall include educators from school districts  
37 or educational service districts that have experience with  
38 technology-based competitive student activities. The superintendent  
39 of public instruction shall develop and approve course equivalencies

1 to include in the updated list established in subsection (3) of this  
2 section based on the work of the technical working group.

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