
SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1273

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Paul, Eslick, Salahuddin, Bergquist, Reed, Nance, Timmons, Pollet, Fey, and Simmons)

READ FIRST TIME 02/28/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving student access to dual credit
2 programs including career and technical education dual credit
3 programs; adding new sections to chapter 28B.50 RCW; creating new
4 sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that students
7 who participate in dual credit programs have higher rates of college
8 enrollment, persistence, and completion. Dual credit programs are an
9 important economic development for Washington because they equip
10 students with the skills needed for high-skill, high-wage employment
11 and continued education in high-demand sectors.

12 (2) Career and technical education (CTE) dual credit is the most
13 commonly accessed form of dual credit in Washington and has
14 significant potential to improve equitable access to postsecondary
15 pathways for students from all backgrounds. However, it lags behind
16 other course-based dual credit programs in ensuring that students
17 receive a transcribed credit while in high school, and that the
18 credit they earn will transfer to the postsecondary institution of
19 their choice.

20 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to extend and expand a
21 pilot program for the purpose of increasing CTE dual credit

1 participation and credential attainment in professional technical
2 programs and receive recommendations on future amendments to state
3 dual credit policies.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
7 specific purpose, the college board shall administer, and award grant
8 funding to, a regional pilot program, for the purpose of increasing
9 career and technical education dual credit participation and
10 credential attainment in professional technical programs.

11 (2) The pilot program must be a continuation of the pilot program
12 established in section 601(47)(a), chapter 376, Laws of 2024. This
13 pilot program may receive grant funding for up to two years.

14 (3) Community and technical colleges, public high schools, and
15 skill centers participating in a pilot program may use grant funding
16 to cover expenses for the following activities:

17 (a) Developing, and updating annually, a comprehensive catalog of
18 dual credit courses and programs offered to students enrolled in
19 public high schools;

20 (b) Aligning career and technical education dual credit programs
21 with postsecondary credential pathways and apprenticeships leading to
22 in-demand career fields;

23 (c) Providing technical assistance to public high schools and
24 institutions of higher education to improve the accuracy and speed of
25 awarding dual credits and updating transcripts;

26 (d) Providing professional development for staff of public high
27 schools and institutions of higher education to develop, align, and
28 articulate dual credit courses; and

29 (e) Supporting public high school staff in the following
30 activities:

31 (i) Outreach to prospective students and students who have
32 completed career and technical education dual credit courses and are
33 eligible for postsecondary credit about how to receive and where to
34 apply the credit;

35 (ii) Providing technical assistance in course curriculum
36 alignment for career and technical education dual credit courses;

37 (iii) Partnering with institutions of higher education to develop
38 articulation agreements for career and technical education dual
39 credit courses; and

1 (iv) Awarding equipment and supplies grants for career and
2 technical education dual credit courses that meet emerging needs in
3 high-demand, high-paying industries.

4 (4) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions
5 apply:

6 (a) "Public high school" means a public school as defined in RCW
7 28A.150.010 with any of grades nine through 12; and

8 (b) "Skill centers" refers to the regional career and technical
9 education partnerships established under chapter 28A.245 RCW.

10 (5) This section expires July 1, 2030.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.50
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) In compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the college board, in
14 consultation with the office of the superintendent of public
15 instruction, shall jointly report to the appropriate committees of
16 the legislature on the implementation of this act and with
17 recommendations for additional improvements to state dual credit
18 policies. The preliminary report is due by December 10, 2026, and the
19 final report is due by August 10, 2027.

20 (2) One or both reports must include the following information:

21 (a) Findings regarding the pilot program created for the purpose
22 of increasing career and technical education dual credit
23 participation and credential attainment in professional technical
24 programs under section 2 of this act; and

25 (b) Recommendations to the legislature and relevant state
26 agencies for:

27 (i) Improving career and technical education course articulation
28 and for the development of statewide articulation agreements;

29 (ii) Improving data collection and reporting methods;

30 (iii) Credit transcription and transfer processes;

31 (iv) Ensuring college and career counseling for high school
32 students includes robust and accurate information about dual credit
33 pathways, including career and technical education dual credit, and
34 their alignment to postsecondary credential and apprenticeship
35 opportunities;

36 (v) Further alignment of career and technical education dual
37 credit with career-connected learning, apprenticeship, and credential
38 pathways; and

1 (vi) Identification of additional priority career and technical
2 education dual credit courses for statewide articulation,
3 considering, but not limited to, the targeted industry sectors under
4 RCW 43.330.090.

5 (3) The final report must establish recommendations to improve
6 state career and technical education dual credit policies, create
7 statewide articulation agreements, and improve the uniform
8 transcription of earned credits. These recommendations must include
9 input from a statewide organization representing career and technical
10 education and other relevant interested parties and report on
11 potential statutory changes and administrative rule improvements that
12 support equitable student access to, and the effectiveness of, career
13 and technical education dual credit programs.

14 (4) This section expires July 1, 2030.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for the purposes of
16 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not
17 provided by June 30, 2025, in the omnibus appropriations act, this
18 act is null and void.

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