
HOUSE BILL 1273

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Representatives Paul, Eslick, Salahuddin, Bergquist, Reed, Nance, Timmons, Pollet, Fey, and Simmons

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Postsecondary Education & Workforce.

1 AN ACT Relating to improving student access to dual credit
2 programs including career and technical education dual credit
3 programs; amending RCW 28B.50.531; adding a new section to chapter
4 28A.310 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; adding a
5 new section to chapter 28A.245 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
6 28A.300 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating
7 new sections.

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

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

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

1 credit they earn will transfer to the postsecondary institution of
2 their choice.

3 (3) Therefore, the legislature intends to streamline regional
4 efforts that support students' dual credit access and attainment by
5 increasing the collaboration between state and local partners, study
6 the feasibility of improving the state's dual credit administrative
7 data management system, create and encourage the use of statewide
8 articulation agreements for CTE dual credit courses, and receive
9 recommendations on future amendments to state dual credit policies.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) Each educational service district shall collaborate with the
13 following entities to streamline regional efforts that support
14 students' dual credit access and attainment: The office of the
15 superintendent of public instruction, the state board for community
16 and technical colleges, regional participating institutions of higher
17 education, regional skill centers established under chapter 28A.245
18 RCW, regional registered apprenticeship programs approved under
19 chapter 49.04 RCW, local public high schools, and each school
20 district operating within the educational service district.

21 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
22 specific purpose, the regional efforts required by subsection (1) of
23 this section must include the following activities:

24 (a) Developing, and updating annually, a comprehensive catalog of
25 dual credit courses and programs offered to students enrolled in each
26 local public high school;

27 (b) Aligning career and technical education dual credit programs
28 available within the educational service district with regional
29 postsecondary credential pathways and apprenticeships leading to in-
30 demand career fields;

31 (c) Providing technical assistance to public high schools and
32 institutions of higher education to improve the accuracy and speed of
33 awarding and transcribing dual credits;

34 (d) Providing professional development for staff of the public
35 high schools and the institutions of higher education to develop,
36 align, and articulate dual credit courses; and

37 (e) Supporting public high school staff in the following
38 activities:

1 (i) Outreach to prospective students and students who have
2 completed career and technical education dual credit courses and are
3 eligible for postsecondary credit about how to receive and where to
4 apply the credit;

5 (ii) Providing technical assistance to public high school staff
6 in course curriculum alignment for career and technical education
7 dual credit courses;

8 (iii) Providing technical assistance to staff of the public high
9 schools and the institutions of higher education in the development
10 of articulation agreements for career and technical education dual
11 credit courses; and

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

15 (3) For the purposes of this section:

16 (a) "Institution of higher education" has the same meaning as in
17 RCW 28A.600.287.

18 (b) "Public high school" means a public school as defined in RCW
19 28A.150.010 with any of grades nine through 12.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The state board for community and
21 technical colleges shall develop a plan for improving or replacing
22 its online, statewide enrollment and reporting system for career and
23 technical education dual credit. The plan must include an estimated
24 timeline and cost estimates, including the cost of technical
25 assistance and training, technology updates, and ongoing maintenance
26 requirements, that may be needed to, among other things:

27 (a) Improve cross-system compatibility with the community and
28 technical college administrative system, as well as the comprehensive
29 education data and research system of the office of the
30 superintendent of public instruction;

31 (b) Create tracking of, and alerts for, articulation agreement
32 updates;

33 (c) Create searchable fields for course titles;

34 (d) Improve student account verification; and

35 (e) Add data validation features.

36 (2) In developing the plan, the state board for community and
37 technical colleges shall:

1 (a) Review its June 2022, Washington career and technical
2 education dual credit final report, including the interim report and
3 appendices;

4 (b) Conduct a cost-benefit analysis of moving to a single,
5 statewide system for administering either all dual credit programs or
6 only the career and technical education dual credit program; and

7 (c) Consult with other states that have adopted a single,
8 statewide system for administering one or more dual credit programs.

9 (3) By October 1, 2026, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
10 state board for community and technical colleges must report to the
11 appropriate committees of the legislature with the results of its
12 study and its recommendations for improving dual credit
13 administrative data management, with particular focus on the
14 management of administrative data for career and technical education
15 dual credit programs.

16 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28B.50.531 and 2008 c 170 s 108 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) It is the legislature's intent to recognize and support the
19 work of community and technical colleges, high schools, and skill
20 centers in creating articulation and dual credit agreements for
21 career and technical education students, in part by codifying current
22 practice.

23 (2) Community and technical colleges shall create agreements with
24 high schools and skill centers to offer dual high school and college
25 credit for secondary career and technical courses. Agreements shall
26 be subject to approval by the chief instructional officer of the
27 college and the principal and the career and technical education
28 director of the high school or the executive director of the skill
29 center.

30 (3) Community and technical colleges may create dual credit
31 agreements with high schools and skill centers that are located
32 outside the college district boundary or service area.

33 (4) If a community or technical college has created an agreement
34 with a high school or skill center to offer college credit for a
35 secondary career and technical course, all community and technical
36 colleges shall accept the course for an equal amount of college
37 credit.

38 (5)(a)(i) The state board for community and technical colleges
39 shall create, and publish on its website, statewide articulation

1 agreements for career and technical education dual credit courses. A
2 multiyear workplan must be published on its website and updated
3 annually. These activities must be conducted in collaboration with
4 the office of the superintendent of public instruction and other
5 relevant stakeholders.

6 (ii) The statewide articulation agreements for the five most
7 common career and technical education dual credit courses must be
8 created and published by December 1, 2026.

9 (b) Community and technical colleges, high schools, and skill
10 centers are strongly encouraged to use available statewide
11 articulation agreements.

12 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) In compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
13 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state board
14 for community and technical colleges, and the association of
15 educational service districts shall jointly report to the appropriate
16 committees of the legislature on the implementation of this act and
17 with recommendations for additional improvements to state dual credit
18 policies. The preliminary report is due by December 10, 2025, and the
19 final report is due by December 10, 2026.

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

21 (a) Findings regarding the initial streamlining of regional
22 efforts to support dual credit access and attainment as required
23 under section 2 of this act;

24 (b) Findings regarding the creation of statewide articulation
25 agreements as required under RCW 28B.50.531; and

26 (c) Recommendations to the legislature and relevant state
27 agencies for:

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

30 (ii) Improving data collection and reporting methods;

31 (iii) Credit transcription and transfer processes;

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

37 (v) Further alignment of career and technical education dual
38 credit with career-connected learning, apprenticeship, and credential
39 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 provide recommendations for future
6 amendments to state dual credit policies. These recommendations must
7 include potential statutory changes, suggestions for administrative
8 rule improvements, and approaches for supporting equitable student
9 access to, and the effectiveness of, a variety of dual credit
10 programs statewide.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 School districts and public high schools shall collaborate with
14 the educational service districts and other specified entities to
15 streamline regional efforts that support students' dual credit access
16 and attainment as required by section 2 of this act.

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

19 The skill centers shall collaborate with the educational service
20 districts and other specified entities to streamline regional efforts
21 that support students' dual credit access and attainment as required
22 by section 2 of this act.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
26 collaborate with the educational service districts and other
27 specified entities to streamline regional efforts that support
28 students' dual credit access and attainment as required by section 2
29 of this act.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 28B.10
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 The state board for community and technical colleges and
33 institutions of higher education participating in dual credit
34 programs shall collaborate with the educational service districts and
35 other specified entities to streamline regional efforts that support

1 students' dual credit access and attainment as required by section 2
2 of this act.

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