
HOUSE BILL 2676

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2026 Regular Session

By Representatives Gregerson, Ormsby, and Macri; by request of Office of Financial Management

Read first time 01/27/26. Referred to Committee on Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to efficiencies and programming changes in public
2 education; amending RCW 28A.160.200, 28A.230.215, and 28A.600.402;
3 and declaring an emergency.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.160.200 and 1995 1st sp.s. c 10 s 2 are each
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (1) The superintendent shall develop a reimbursement schedule to
8 pay districts for the cost of student transportation vehicles
9 purchased after September 1, 1982. While it is the responsibility of
10 each district to select and pay for each student transportation
11 vehicle purchased by the district, each district shall be paid a sum
12 based on the category of vehicle, anticipated lifetime of vehicles of
13 this category, and state reimbursement rate for the category plus
14 inflation as recognized by the reimbursement schedule established in
15 this section as set by the superintendent. Categories and
16 reimbursement rates of vehicles shall be those established under RCW
17 28A.160.195. The accumulated value of the payments and the potential
18 investment return thereon shall be designed to be equal to the
19 replacement cost of the vehicle less its salvage value at the end of
20 its anticipated lifetime. Beginning with buses that are scheduled for
21 depreciation payments as of September 2025 and those qualifying for

1 payments after that date, the superintendent shall use a minimum
2 anticipated lifetime of 180 months. The superintendent shall revise
3 at least annually the reimbursement payments based on the current and
4 anticipated future cost of comparable categories of transportation
5 equipment. Reimbursements to school districts for approved
6 transportation equipment shall be placed in a separate transportation
7 vehicle fund established for each school district under RCW
8 28A.160.130. However, educational service districts providing student
9 transportation services pursuant to RCW 28A.310.180(4) and receiving
10 moneys generated pursuant to this section shall establish and
11 maintain a separate transportation vehicle account in the educational
12 service district's general expense fund for the purposes and subject
13 to the conditions under RCW 28A.160.130 and 28A.320.300.

14 (2) To the extent possible, districts shall operate vehicles
15 acquired under this section not less than the number of years or
16 useful lifetime now, or hereafter, assigned to the category of
17 vehicles by the superintendent. School districts shall properly
18 maintain the transportation equipment acquired under the provisions
19 of this section, in accordance with rules established by the office
20 of the superintendent of public instruction. If a district fails to
21 follow generally accepted standards of maintenance and operation, the
22 superintendent of public instruction shall penalize the district by
23 deducting from future reimbursements under this section an amount
24 equal to the original cost of the vehicle multiplied by the fraction
25 of the useful lifetime or miles the vehicle failed to operate.

26 (3) The superintendent shall annually develop a depreciation
27 schedule to recognize the cost of depreciation to districts
28 contracting with private carriers for student transportation.
29 Payments on this schedule shall be a straight line depreciation based
30 on the original cost of the appropriate category of vehicle.

31 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.215 and 2023 c 271 s 4 are each amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (1) The legislature finds that fully realizing the potential of
34 high school and beyond plans as meaningful tools for articulating and
35 revising pathways for graduation will require additional school
36 counselors and family coordinators. The legislature further finds
37 that the development and implementation of an online electronic
38 platform for high school and beyond plans will be an appropriate and
39 supportive action that will assist students, parents and guardians,

1 educators, school counselors, and other staff who support students'
2 career and college preparation as the legislature explores options
3 for funding additional school counselors.

4 (2) Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, each school district
5 must ensure that an electronic high school and beyond plan platform
6 is available to all students who are required to have a high school
7 and beyond plan.

8 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
9 facilitate the transition to a universal online high school and
10 beyond plan platform that will ensure consistent and equitable access
11 to the needed information and support to guide students' educational
12 experience and ensure preparation for their postsecondary plans.

13 (a) By January 1, 2024, the office of the superintendent of
14 public instruction must develop a preliminary list of existing
15 vendors who can provide or build a platform that meets the criteria
16 outlined in subsection (4) of this section and that supports the high
17 school and beyond plan elements identified in RCW 28A.230.212 and has
18 the capabilities to support the new elements identified in section 5,
19 chapter 271, Laws of 2023. The office of the superintendent of public
20 instruction must submit the list of existing vendors and estimated
21 costs associated with statewide implementation of the universal
22 platform to the governor and the education policy and fiscal
23 committees of the legislature.

24 (b) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
25 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
26 instruction must select the vendor that will be responsible for
27 developing the universal platform by June 1, 2024.

28 (c) By October 1, 2024, the office of the superintendent of
29 public instruction must develop an implementation plan including both
30 an estimated timeline and updated cost estimates, including the
31 technical assistance, technology updates, ongoing maintenance
32 requirements, and adjustments to the technology funding formula, and
33 statewide professional development that may be needed, for completing
34 full statewide implementation of the universal platform in all school
35 districts. In the implementation plan, the office of the
36 superintendent of public instruction may include a cost alternative
37 for educational service districts to host the universal platform for
38 school districts of the second class when such a district does not
39 have sufficient technology resources to implement and maintain the
40 universal platform.

1 (4) (a) In addition to the requirements outlined in RCW
2 28A.230.212, the universal platform must have the capability to be
3 routinely updated and modified in order to include the following
4 elements and capabilities to ensure equity in high school and beyond
5 plans implementation and engagement across the state that:

6 (i) Enable students to create, personalize, and revise their high
7 school and beyond plan;

8 (ii) Comply with all necessary state and federal requirements for
9 student privacy and allow for students to opt in or opt out of
10 portions of the universal platform related to third-party information
11 sharing;

12 (iii) Use technology that can quickly be adapted to include
13 future statutory changes, administrative changes, or both, as well as
14 integrate enhancements to improve the features and functionality;

15 (iv) Facilitate the automatic import of academic course, credit,
16 and grade data at a regular interval from the most commonly used
17 district student information system platforms and manual import from
18 less commonly used systems so that students' progress towards
19 graduation in the high school (~~(and)~~) and beyond plan is accurately
20 reflected at any given time;

21 (v) Allow for translation into the most common non-English
22 languages across the state in accordance with the model language
23 access policy and procedures as required under chapter 28A.183 RCW;

24 (vi) Include multiple and varied in-platform assessments with
25 viewable results that can inform career and postsecondary goals
26 including, but not limited to, personality, learning styles,
27 interests, aptitudes, and skills assessments;

28 (vii) Include a catalog containing meaningful, high quality
29 career exploration opportunities and resources beyond the traditional
30 college, career, and aptitude assessments that are submitted by
31 approved entities (community organizations, institutions of higher
32 education that are authorized to participate in state financial aid
33 programs under chapter 28B.92 RCW, and employers) and vetted by
34 state-selected approvers that allow students to register for or apply
35 to participate in the opportunities (programs, classes, internships,
36 preapprenticeships, online courses, etc.) or access the resources.
37 The universal platform should use completion data from these
38 opportunities to make recommendations to students to include in their
39 high school (~~(and)~~) and beyond plans;

1 (viii) A dedicated space in which to build a direct connection to
2 potential employers, including industry associations, trade
3 associations, labor unions, service branches of the military,
4 nonprofit organizations, and other state and local community
5 organizations so students can learn from experts in different
6 occupational fields about career opportunities and any necessary
7 education and training requirements;

8 (ix) A secure space for staff, parents or guardians, and approved
9 community partners who support students' academic progress and career
10 and college preparation, to make notes that can inform staff efforts
11 to connect students to academic and career connected learning
12 opportunities and develop support and credit recovery plans for
13 students, as needed;

14 (x) Accessibility options for students needing accommodations
15 including, but not limited to, visual aids and voice dictation for
16 students with limited literacy skills;

17 (xi) Indefinite access for students to their high school
18 (~~(and)~~) and beyond plan, regardless of current school affiliation
19 or lack thereof, in both mobile and desktop applications, that
20 includes the capability to download and print their plan in one
21 document, without requiring students to access multiple screens;

22 (xii) Inclusion of in-state labor market, apprenticeship, and
23 postsecondary education performance data, including employment and
24 earning outcomes, certificate and degree completion outcomes, and
25 demographics of enrolled students or employees, to inform students'
26 exploration and consideration of postsecondary options;

27 (xiii) A dedicated space where students can store additional
28 evidence of their learning and postsecondary preparation, such as
29 videos, essays, art, awards and recognitions, screencasts, letters of
30 recommendation, industry certifications, microcredentials or other
31 mastery-based learning recognitions, and work-integrated learning
32 experiences. The universal platform should include the ability for
33 students and staff to provide access to this portfolio in its
34 entirety or in selected parts to relevant third parties, including
35 institutions of higher education that are authorized to participate
36 in state financial aid programs under chapter 28B.92 RCW, branches of
37 the military, potential employers, or preapprenticeship
38 opportunities;

39 (xiv) Access to data reporting features that allow schools,
40 districts, and state agencies to review data stored within the

1 universal platform, and allow data to be broken down by demographic,
2 socioeconomic, and other identified characteristics, for the purposes
3 of analyzing student use of the universal platform, improving student
4 access to the information, guidance, and opportunities that can help
5 them maximize their secondary education experience and postsecondary
6 preparation, and informing state-level support for high school and
7 beyond plan implementation;

8 (xv) A space for the student to indicate the graduation pathway
9 option or options the student has selected to complete and how the
10 selected option or options align with the student's career and
11 postsecondary education goals; and

12 (xvi) The ability for school districts to customize or add
13 features unique to local needs and local graduation requirements,
14 including the capability to auto-align data with the local school
15 districts' graduation requirements or the ability to enter those
16 requirements manually.

17 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
18 also ensure that the universal platform will permit transition plans
19 required by RCW 28A.155.220 to be incorporated into the universal
20 platform in a manner that eliminates the need to create duplicate or
21 substantially similar transition plans in other electronic or
22 nonelectronic formats.

23 (5)(a) Within two years of completing the universal platform
24 development and alignment with the requirements in this section and
25 RCW 28A.230.212, school districts must provide students with access
26 to the adopted universal platform.

27 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
28 develop guidance and provide technical assistance and support for the
29 facilitation of statewide professional development for school
30 districts and partner organizations in using the universal platform.

31 (c) The superintendent shall withhold up to 1.9 percent of school
32 district allocations generated under RCW 28A.150.260(8)(b) solely for
33 the central provision of licenses to the universal platform required
34 under this section. The withheld funds may not be used for salaries
35 or benefits for employees of the office of the superintendent of
36 public instruction.

37 (6) In carrying out subsections (3)(b) and (4) of this section,
38 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall seek
39 input from the state board of education, educators, school and
40 district administrators, school counselors, career counseling

1 specialists, families, students, the Washington student achievement
2 council, institutions of higher education that are authorized to
3 participate in state financial aid programs under chapter 28B.92 RCW,
4 and community partners who support students' career and college
5 preparation. The office of the superintendent of public instruction
6 may partner with existing community and regional networks and
7 organizations who support students' career and college preparation in
8 the analysis, selection, and implementation of the universal
9 platform.

10 (7) As used in this section "universal platform" means the
11 universal online high school and beyond plan platform.

12 (8) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
13 adopt and revise rules as necessary to implement this section.

14 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.600.402 and 2023 c 350 s 1 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) Students participating in running start programs may be
17 funded up to a combined maximum enrollment of 1.4 full-time
18 equivalents in the 2025-26 school year and 1.2 full-time equivalents
19 in subsequent years, including school district and institution of
20 higher education enrollment.

21 (2) In calculating the combined full-time equivalents, the office
22 of the superintendent of public instruction:

23 (a) Must adopt rules to fund the participating student's
24 enrollment in running start courses provided by the institution of
25 higher education during the summer academic term, up to a maximum of
26 10 college credits per student per summer academic term; and

27 (b) May average the participating student's September through
28 June enrollment to account for differences in the start and end dates
29 for courses provided by the high school and the institution of higher
30 education.

31 (3) Running start programs as a service delivery model and
32 associated funding levels beyond 1.0 full-time equivalent per student
33 are not part of the state's statutory program of basic education
34 under chapter 28A.150 RCW.

35 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
36 consultation with the state board for community and technical
37 colleges, the participating institutions of higher education, the
38 student achievement council, and the education data center, must
39 annually track, and report to the fiscal committees of the

1 legislature, the combined full-time equivalent experience of students
2 participating in running start programs, including course load
3 analyses and enrollments by high school and participating
4 institutions of higher education.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
7 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
8 effect immediately.

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