
SENATE BILL 5724

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Krishnadasan, Boehnke, and Cortes

Read first time 02/11/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

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.600 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; adding a
5 new section to chapter 28A.245 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
6 28A.310 RCW; creating new sections; and providing expiration dates.

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

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

14 (2) Strengthening dual credit programs and transitions from
15 secondary to postsecondary education requires a coordinated statewide
16 approach. This effort requires collaboration and leadership from the
17 state board for community and technical colleges and the office of
18 the superintendent of public instruction to ensure students can
19 engage in all forms of dual credit opportunities that align with
20 their career and academic interests.

1 (3) Career and technical education dual credit is the most
2 commonly accessed form of dual credit in Washington and has
3 significant potential to improve equitable access to postsecondary
4 pathways for students from all backgrounds. However, it lags behind
5 other course-based dual credit programs in ensuring that students
6 receive credit on their transcript while in high school, and that the
7 credit they earn will transfer into the postsecondary institution of
8 their choice.

9 (4) Therefore, the legislature intends to streamline statewide
10 and regional efforts that support students' dual credit access and
11 attainment by increasing the collaboration between state and local
12 partners, studying the feasibility of improving the state's dual
13 credit administrative data management system, creating and
14 encouraging the use of statewide articulation agreements for career
15 and technical education dual credit courses, and receiving
16 recommendations on future amendments to state dual credit policies.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.600
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) The state board for community and technical colleges and the
20 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall collaborate
21 with the following entities to streamline statewide and regional
22 efforts that support students' dual credit access and attainment:
23 Educational services districts, participating institutions of higher
24 education, skill centers established under chapter 28A.245 RCW,
25 registered apprenticeship programs approved under chapter 49.04 RCW,
26 public high schools, and school districts operating within the
27 educational service district.

28 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
29 specific purpose, the statewide and regional efforts required by
30 subsection (1) of this section must include the following activities:

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

34 (b) Aligning career and technical education dual credit programs
35 with postsecondary credential pathways and apprenticeships leading to
36 in-demand career fields;

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

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

4 (e) Supporting public high school staff in the following
5 activities:

6 (i) Outreach to prospective students and students who have
7 completed career and technical education dual credit courses and are
8 eligible for postsecondary credit about how to receive and where to
9 apply the credit;

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

12 (iii) Partnering with institutions of higher education to develop
13 articulation agreements for career and technical education dual
14 credit courses; and

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

18 (3) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions
19 apply:

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

22 (b) "Public high school" means a public school as defined in RCW
23 28A.150.010 with any of grades nine through 12.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The state board for community and
25 technical colleges shall develop a plan for improving or replacing
26 its online, statewide enrollment and reporting system for career and
27 technical education dual credit.

28 (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
29 specific purpose, the plan must include an estimated timeline and
30 cost estimates, including the cost of technical assistance and
31 training, technology updates, and ongoing maintenance requirements,
32 that may be needed to, among other things:

33 (a) Improve cross-system compatibility with the community and
34 technical college administrative system, as well as the comprehensive
35 education data and research system of the office of the
36 superintendent of public instruction;

37 (b) Create tracking of, and alerts for, articulation agreement
38 updates and expiration dates;

39 (c) Create searchable fields for course titles;

1 (d) Improve student account verification; and

2 (e) Add data validation features.

3 (3) In developing the plan, the state board for community and
4 technical colleges shall:

5 (a) Review its June 2022, Washington career and technical
6 education dual credit final report, including the interim report and
7 appendices;

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

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

13 (4) By October 1, 2026, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
14 state board for community and technical colleges shall report to the
15 appropriate committees of the legislature with the plan and
16 recommendations for improving dual credit administrative data
17 management, with particular focus on the management of administrative
18 data for career and technical education dual credit programs.

19 (5) This section expires August 1, 2027.

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

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

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

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

37 (4) If a community or technical college has created an agreement
38 with a high school or skill center to offer college credit for a
39 secondary career and technical course, all community and technical

1 colleges shall accept the course for an equal amount of college
2 credit.

3 (5) (a) The college board shall create, and publish on its
4 website, articulation agreements for statewide career and technical
5 education dual credit courses. A multiyear work plan must be
6 published on its website and updated biannually. These activities
7 must be conducted in collaboration with the office of the
8 superintendent of public instruction and other relevant stakeholders.

9 (b) The statewide articulation agreements for the five most
10 common career and technical education dual credit courses in high-
11 demand program areas must be created and published by December 1,
12 2026.

13 (c) Community and technical colleges, high schools, and skill
14 centers are strongly encouraged to use available statewide
15 articulation agreements.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. (1) In compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
17 state board for community and technical colleges, in consultation
18 with the office of the superintendent of public instruction, shall
19 jointly report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on
20 the implementation of this act and with recommendations for
21 additional improvements to state dual credit policies. The
22 preliminary report is due by June 30, 2025, and the final report is
23 due by December 10, 2026.

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

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

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

30 (c) Findings on costs related to career and technical education
31 dual credit, including the costs to both students and districts
32 associated with the fees for transcription and administration
33 currently charged by colleges, including the identification of
34 individual fees, consortia fees, and total costs; and

35 (d) Recommendations to the legislature and relevant state
36 agencies for:

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

39 (ii) Improving data collection and reporting methods;

- 1 (iii) Credit transcription and transfer processes;
- 2 (iv) Ensuring college and career counseling for high school
3 students includes robust and accurate information about dual credit
4 pathways, including career and technical education dual credit, and
5 their alignment to postsecondary credential and apprenticeship
6 opportunities;
- 7 (v) Aligning career and technical education dual credit with
8 career-connected learning, apprenticeship, and credential pathways;
9 and
- 10 (vi) Identifying additional priority career and technical
11 education dual credit courses for statewide articulation including,
12 but not limited to, the targeted industry sectors under RCW
13 43.330.090.
- 14 (3) The final report must provide recommendations for future
15 changes to state dual credit policies. These recommendations must
16 include:
- 17 (a) Potential statutory changes;
- 18 (b) Suggestions for administrative rule improvements;
- 19 (c) Strategies to offset the costs to students, including the
20 cost of required examination or testing fees associated with
21 obtaining state or industry certification in the student's career and
22 technical education program;
- 23 (d) Further approaches for supporting equitable student access to
24 a variety of dual credit programs statewide; and
- 25 (e) Further approaches for supporting the effectiveness of a
26 variety of dual credit programs statewide.
- 27 (4) This section expires August 1, 2027.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 School districts and public high schools shall collaborate with
31 the state board for community and technical colleges, office of the
32 superintendent of public instruction, educational service districts,
33 and other specified entities to streamline statewide and regional
34 efforts that support students' dual credit access and attainment as
35 required by section 2 of this act.

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

1 The skill centers shall collaborate with the state board for
2 community and technical colleges, office of the superintendent of
3 public instruction, and other specified entities to streamline
4 statewide and regional efforts that support students' dual credit
5 access and attainment as required by section 2 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 The educational service districts shall collaborate with the
9 state board for community and technical colleges, office of the
10 superintendent of public instruction, and other specified entities to
11 streamline statewide and regional efforts that support students' dual
12 credit access and attainment as required by section 2 of this act.

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