



Expanding options for students to earn high school diplomas

Bill Number: SHB 1758 Effective Date: July 26, 2009

CLARIFICATION of how this bill impacts Washington's community and technical colleges

Summary

A community or technical college may issue a high school diploma or certificate as provided under this section:

- (1) An individual who satisfactorily meets the requirements for high school completion shall be awarded a diploma from the college, subject to rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education.
- (2) An individual enrolled through Running Start who satisfactorily completes an associate degree, including an associate of arts degree, associate of science degree, associate of technology degree, or associate in applied science degree, shall be awarded a state high school diploma from the college upon written request from the student. (These individuals are not required to complete the State Board of Education's graduation requirements.)
- (3) An individual, twenty-one years or older, who enrolls in a community or technical college for the purpose of obtaining an associate degree and who satisfactorily completes an associate degree, including an associate of arts degree, associate of science degree, associate of technology degree, or associate in applied science degree, shall be awarded a state high school diploma from the college upon written request from the student. Individuals under this subsection are not eligible for funding provided for K-12 students. (These individuals are not required to complete the State Board of Education's graduation requirements.)

Students

- Students must provide a written request to the college registrar's office (or designee) to receive a high school diploma from the college by completing their associate of arts degree, associate of science degree, associate of technology degree, or associate in applied science degree (this may just be a check box on the same form that you use to apply for your college degree).
- It is clarified that any student who is younger than 21 years old and has been enrolled in Running Start at any time may request a high school diploma from the college upon associate degree completion. This is regardless if they are currently enrolled in Running Start or not.
- It is clarified that individuals over 21 are not eligible for state K-12 funding, unless they started the school year under the age of 21. When a student turns 21 mid-year the student is allowed to finish the entire year.

Fees

- Colleges will charge the same fee for this high school graduation diploma application as all other high school diplomas awarded at the college.

Notification

- Colleges may want to develop a notification process so that the Registrar (or designee) contacts the campus High School Coordinator and the Running Start Coordinator when a student applies.
- The Running Start Coordinator may want to report students who earn these diplomas to the student's resident high schools or district.

Diploma Records Maintenance

- Colleges must retain all diploma records and transcripts as required by law.
- **How the Transcript Screen should be coded to capture these students: In SM 6009 (Transcript Degree Information), the Exit Code is 6 and in the CIP column, staff should enter DIP.** These completions should not be combined with the exit code 6 high school completions because they do not follow the same guidelines and regulations. Code for the quarter that the high school diploma is awarded, given that all requirements are met.

Additional Details of Bill on the Reverse Side of Document

Rev date: March 22, 2010

This clarification document is provided as a service to Washington's community and technical colleges by the SBCTC Student Services division. If you have questions, please contact Kayeri Akweks at kawkweks@sbctc.edu or (360) 704-4319. For the latest version, visit http://www.sbctc.edu/college/s_runningstart.aspx

Graduation Ceremony

- Students who request the high school diploma may receive both the college degree and the high school diploma at the college graduation ceremony.

College-based High School Diplomas

- Colleges may want to change language on their high school diplomas to cite the new law as the basis for issuing the high school diploma at the college graduation ceremony and use language from the new law: “has successfully completed the requirements for this High School Diploma in compliance with high school graduation requirements as described in 28B.50.535 and 2007 c 355 s 2 as amended.”
- All colleges must be able to issue the high school diploma. College districts may choose to issue a district-wide type diploma.
- All students who earn an associate degree of any type are eligible to request a high school diploma from the college. Certificates may NOT be used.

Is SHB 1758 Retroactive?

- The policy of the SBCTC is that our associate degrees are valid both before and after the law went into effect. All associates degrees earned at anytime may request a high school diploma if the student is 21 years and older or has been a Running Start student at any time prior to earning the diploma.

Are Other College-High School Programs Eligible Besides Running Start?

- No, based on one of the three qualifiers for a high school diploma in the new law of SHB 1758, only Running Start students are eligible for receiving the high school diploma once they graduate with an Associate Degree – regardless of age. All others must wait until they are 21 years old to request the high school diploma.

Running Start

Students who are juniors or seniors in high school can earn both high school and college credit simultaneously by enrolling in a community or technical college and some four-year higher education institutions through the Running Start program.

School districts redirect basic education funds to the college to pay the cost of attendance, and the student is not required to pay tuition. There are a number of laws requiring school districts to notify students about the Running Start program and other educational options.

SHB 1758 Sponsors: House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Quall, Hope, Wallace, Sullivan, Goodman, Kagi, Santos, Morrell, Hasegawa and Ormsby).

Votes on Final Passage: Unanimous for both Senate and House.

Brief Description: Expanding Options for students to earn high school diplomas, Bill Number: SHB 1758, Effective Date: July 26, 2009

Summary: RCW 28B.50.535 and 2007 c 355 s 2 are each amended to read as follows: A community or technical college **may** issue a high school diploma or certificate as provided under this section.

(1) An individual who satisfactorily meets the requirements for high school completion shall be awarded a diploma from the college, subject to rules adopted by the superintendent of public instruction and the state board of education.

(2) An individual enrolled through the option established under RCW 28A.600.310 through 28A.600.400 who satisfactorily completes an associate degree, including an associate of arts degree, associate of science degree, associate of technology degree, or associate in applied science degree, **shall** be awarded a diploma from the college **upon written request from the student.**

(3) An individual, twenty-one years or older, who enrolls in a community or technical college for the purpose of obtaining an associate degree and who satisfactorily completes an associate degree, including an associate of arts degree, associate of science degree, associate of technology degree, or associate in applied science degree, **shall** be awarded a diploma from the college **upon written request from the student.** Individuals under this subsection are not eligible for funding provided under chapter 28A.150 RCW.

School districts must include these options in various required notifications to middle school and high school students about available educational options.

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