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May 11, 2015  
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**Governor Inslee signs bill to expand student access to dual-credit opportunities**

**Olympia** — On May 8, Governor Inslee signed Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) [1546](#), expanding opportunities for high school students to participate in Running Start and College in the High School programs.

Dual-credit programs allow high school students to earn college and high school credit simultaneously. Previously only 11th and 12th grade students could participate in College in the High School. With the signing of E2SHB 1546, 10th grade students will be eligible to receive dual credit through College in the High School beginning with the 2015-16 school year. Participating students will also be able to use Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) units to pay for costs associated with both programs.

“I’ve seen how dual credit can open a new world of possibilities to students,” said Zillah High School teacher and Council Member Jeff Charbonneau. “The data is very clear: students enrolled in dual credit are more likely to graduate from high school, enroll in a postsecondary program, and graduate from that program.”

For President and CEO of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Washington Student Achievement Council Chair Maud Daudon, the connection between benefits to students and benefits to employers is clear. “Dual credit makes it easier and less costly for students to transition from high school to postsecondary education. This shortens the journey for students to completion, laying the foundation for a long-term increase in educational attainment so employers can hire the skilled workers they need to be competitive.”

The Office of Financial Management requested E2SHB 1546, based on recommendations from the Washington Student Achievement Council’s [2014 Strategic Action Plan](#). The plan was developed in partnership with stakeholders spanning educational, public, and private sectors.

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**About the Washington Student Achievement Council:** Established as a cabinet-level state agency on July 1, 2012, the council provides strategic planning, oversight and advocacy to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington. The council proposes improvements and innovations to meet the evolving needs of students, employers and the educational community. In recognition of the economic, social and civic benefits of public education, the council advocates for increased financial support and civic commitment to ensure a thriving Washington.

The nine-member council includes five citizens (including a current student) and one representative from each of Washington's four major educational sectors. Find us online at [www.wsac.wa.gov](http://www.wsac.wa.gov), on Twitter [@WSACouncil](https://twitter.com/WSACouncil), and on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WSACouncil](http://www.facebook.com/WSACouncil)