October 1, 2019

Running Start Guidance for CTC’s

This letter provides guidance, at the request of our colleges, about attempts to establish separate enrollment requirements or restrictions that differ from our general student requirements for Running Start Students. The critera for enrollment and placement is addressed in WAC, RCW, and in the Running Start FAQ.

**WAC 392-169-045**

Enrollment—General requirements and conditions.

The enrollment of an eligible student in the running start program shall be governed as follows:

(1) An eligible student is responsible for applying for and pursuing admission to an institution of higher education on or before the deadline for enrollment established by the college or university.

(2) It shall not be necessary for an eligible student to obtain a release of attendance from his or her resident school district in order for the student to enroll in an institution of higher education.

(3) An eligible student is entitled to enroll in an institution of higher education for running start program purposes subject to each of the following conditions and limitations:

(a) Enrollment is limited to college and university level courses.

(b) Prior confirmation pursuant to WAC 392-169-050 by the school district through which the student seeks to obtain the award of running start program high school credit of the amount of high school credit to be awarded on or before the deadline for enrollment established by the institution of higher education.

(c) Acceptance of the student by the institution of higher education subject to generally applicable admission and enrollment requirements and limitations established by the institution, including a determination that the student is competent to profit from the college or university level course(s) the student seeks to enroll in: Provided, That a technical college shall not deny admission or continued attendance to a person under twenty-two years of age with a disability based upon impaired competency or the creation of a disruptive atmosphere associated with the person's disability.

(d) The limitations upon the duration and extent of institution of higher education course enrollment set forth in WAC 392-169-055 and 392-169-057.

**Q-55. Can a college limit the proportion of Running Start students in any individual class?**

A. No. A college cannot deny access to Running Start students for participation in any single course or program. Under the law, any policy adopted to limit Running Start enrollment must be generally applicable and related to physical facility limitations, operating funds limitations, academically appropriate class size, or a student’s ability to benefit from a particular class, course or program.

**RCW 28A.600.390**

**Running start program—Rules.**

The superintendent of public instruction, the state board for community and technical colleges, and the student achievement council shall jointly develop and adopt rules governing RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.380, if rules are necessary. The rules shall be written to encourage the maximum use of the program and shall not narrow or limit the enrollment options under RCW 28A.600.300 through 28A.600.380.

Adding critera that limits Running Start participation is expressly prohibited. Colleges are required to maintain generally applicable admission and enrollment requirements for this student population. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.sbctc.edu/colleges-staff/programs-services/running-start/>

Sincerely,

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State Board for Community and Technical Colleges

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