



Central Washington University
Running Start Program
400 East University Way
Ellensburg WA 98926-7433

Governor Inslee recently unveiled his 2015-2017 budget proposal. We are writing to alert you to an element of the Governor's budget that would **eliminate the more than 150 Running Start in the High School programs around the state.**

The Governor proposes to "save" \$5.6 million by limiting Running Start participation only to students taking their courses on a college campus or online. **The \$5.6 million "savings" come from eliminating the Running Start in the High School program now offered in your district.** The Governor's proposed budget eliminates funding for several thousand students statewide, and even those low-income students in your district that would qualify under his new plan would now be limited to only 10 credits per year. We are distressed by the Governor's proposal as it will not fund our current level of service to your students and many will now be required to pay full tuition for dual credit classes.

Supported by OSPI, the Governor proposal will prohibit Central Washington University and Eastern Washington University from offering our successful Running Start in the High School programs that currently serve over 150 high schools across the state. This would be particularly damaging to rural districts where no college campus is close enough for students to attend in person, and students are often unable to afford full college tuition.

We believe Running Start in the High School supports all of the state's high school graduation and baccalaureate degree-production goals. The program allows high school students to earn college credit and fulfill high school graduation requirements at the same time. Students appreciate the academic challenges of college course work and find a Running Start experience also makes the transition from high school to college more successful.

If you wish to share your views about the potential loss of Running Start in the High School, you may wish to share your concerns with your local legislators: **Senator John Braun, Representative Richard DeBolt, and Representative Ed Orcutt.**

CWU values the partnership we have with you and will do everything within our power to continue providing access to dual credit programs to your students. If you would like to discuss proposed changes or impact to your students you may also call a member of your CWU Running Start Team at (509) 963-1504.

Marilyn Levine, Ph.D.
Provost/Vice President for Academic and Student Life
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