



RUNNING START FEE WAIVER (FEE PAY STATUS – 50)

(Revised 6-1-2009)

Fee Waiver: This is a mandatory waiver of fees for eligible Running Start students effective fall quarter 2009. (Chapter 450, Laws of 2009, ESHB 2119)

Summary: Running Start students attending community and technical colleges must pay mandatory college and/or student voted fees as established by the community and technical college. Colleges must however waive mandatory college and/or student voted fees for eligible low-income Running Start students.

This waiver is not included in the 35% legislative limit.

Statute: RCW 28A.600.310 is amended by Chapter 450, Laws of 2009 with the addition of the following subsections:

(2) In lieu of tuition and fees as defined in RCW 28B.15.020 (*Tuition and Fees*) and RCW 28B.15.041 (*Service and Activities Fees*), running start students shall pay to the community or technical college all other mandatory fees as established by each community or technical college; and all other institutions of higher education operating a running start program may charge technology fees. The fees charged shall be prorated based on credit load.

(3) The institutions of higher education must make available fee waivers for low-income running start students. Each institution must establish a written policy for the determination of low-income students before offering the fee waiver. A student shall be considered low income and eligible for a fee waiver upon proof that the student is currently qualified to receive free or reduced-price lunch. Acceptable documentation of low-income status may also include, but is not limited to, documentation that a student has been deemed eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in the last five years, or other criteria established in the institution's policy.

Effect:

- 1) In lieu of tuition and fees (operating, building and S&A fees), Running Start students shall pay to the community or technical college all other mandatory fees as established by each community or technical college;
- 2) The institutions of higher education must make available fee waivers for low-income Running Start students.
- 3) Each institution must establish a written policy for the determination of low-income students before offering the fee waiver.
- 4) Language in the bill referring to proration of charges based on credit load does not apply to the mandatory fees assessed by community and technical colleges.



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State Board Waiver Guidance:

A student shall be considered low income and eligible for a fee waiver upon proof that the student is currently qualified to receive free or reduced-price lunch. Acceptable documentation of low-income status may also include:

- 1) Student has been deemed eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in the last five years
- 2) Family income of equal to or less than 50 percent of the state median
- 3) Family income less than 200% of the federal poverty level
- 4) Receiving any state or federal assistance funds
- 5) Foster youth

College Responsibilities:

- 1) Each college must establish a written policy for determination of low-income Running Start students. Eligibility for free or reduced lunch must be one qualifying status.
- 2) The Running Start Coordinator or designate will review the documentation and approve fee waiver at time of initial advising or thereafter for family financial changes. Running Start students should not be asked to fill out the FAFSA to establish eligibility.
- 3) At time of registration, Running Start students receiving a waiver will be identified by the Fee Pay Status code 50.

Student Responsibilities:

- 1) Supply waiver documentation at time of advising and no later than the first class day.
- 2) Notify Running Start Coordinator or designate of family financial changes that may result in waiver eligibility.
- 3) Pay mandatory fees if not eligible for low-income waiver.

(Note: Running Start students not eligible for low-income waiver are coded to Fee Pay Status