

Attention: Changes to Running Start

Sent: 11/2/2007

Since May 2007 CHN and WHO has been contending for home educators freedoms in the Running Start program. As of last week we lost most of the ground that we had recently gained.

In 2005 CHN lobbied to amend the Running Start law (SSB5289) which gave the State Superintendent's office (SPI) the opportunity to fix some of the past issues we have had. CHN and WHO advocacy worked with Marcia Riggers, Assistant Superintendent (SPI) to create an official SPI form (SPI-1600) for home-based students and new enrollment procedures.

We appreciate Marcia Riggers attempt to correct a problem that has been on-going for years. However, she broadly interpreted the change in the law and used her position to create new enrollment procedures for home-based students. Marcia Riggers has since retired. Her replacement, Martin Mueller, is unwilling to continue with this policy. As of October 25, 2007 he has sent Bulletin No. 098-07 to school districts and community colleges. This bulletin rescinds the Home-based Running Start form (SPI-1600) and the new enrollment procedures for home-based students.

School districts will now enroll home-based students in Running Start according to their local school district policy. This means the school district will now assign the grade level not the parent. Note: Each school district should have a written policy outlining how they determine grade level status for home-based students enrolling in the school district. This is usually done so by credits earned, or birth date.

However, thanks to the passage of SSB5289 home educators still maintain authority over their child's education, and have the freedom to choose courses, graduation requirements, and issue transcripts and diploma.

A student receiving home-based instruction enrolling in a public high school for the sole purpose of participating in courses or programs offered by institutions of higher education shall not be counted by the school district in any required state or federal accountability reporting if the student's parents or guardians filed a declaration of intent to provide home-based instruction and the student received home-based instruction during the school year before the school year in which the student intends to participate in courses or programs offered by the institution of higher education. Students receiving home-based instruction under chapter 28A.200 RCW and students attending private schools approved under chapter 28A.195 RCW shall not be required to meet the student learning goals, obtain a certificate of academic achievement or a certificate of individual achievement to graduate from high school, or to master the essential academic learning requirement. (language from SSB 5289)

Home based students still need to enroll at their local high school and follow the local school district's enrollment procedures. A home educator does not have to seek a diploma from the local school district, nor should they have to meet quarterly with a school counselor for approval of courses. The purpose of quarterly approvals is so that the school counselor can give the student guidance in which courses are needed to complete

their high school diploma. Since this does not apply to a home based student this should not be necessary. Community colleges have a way to accommodate home based students from fulfilling this requirement. Any problems ask you Running Start advisor for help.

Students currently enrolled in Running Start should not be affected by these changes.

CHN will be making updates to our Running Start web page in the next couple of weeks as we get more information, we will alert you as to when this has been completed.

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Christian Homeschool Network

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We sincerely welcome your financial support, which is the lifeline God uses to allow us to exist. We do not have any financial grants, or other sources of income to provide for this work. We pray that you will consider helping with this great mission. Your participation will help us preserve our homeschool freedoms today and for future generations.

To support our efforts monetary gifts to CHN are appreciated; however as with all political lobbying organizations they are NOT tax deductible, but nevertheless remain vital to our continued efforts on behalf of homeschooling. Please make checks payable to: CHN, 10638 SE 236th St., Kent, WA 98031 Or become a member by joining us today <http://www.chnow.org/id14.html>