

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 5663 SB	Title: Virtual campus/colleges
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Estimated Cash Receipts

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Community and Technical College System	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Total \$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27				2027-29				2029-31			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Student Achievement Council	.2	79,000	79,000	79,000	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Community and Technical College System	3.5	1,111,000	1,111,000	1,111,000	3.0	796,000	796,000	796,000	3.0	796,000	796,000	796,000
Total \$	3.7	1,190,000	1,190,000	1,190,000	3.0	796,000	796,000	796,000	3.0	796,000	796,000	796,000

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2025-27			2027-29			2029-31		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Student Achievement Council	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Community and Technical College System	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

Prepared by: Ramona Nabors, OFM	Phone: (360) 742-8948	Date Published: Final 2/16/2025
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Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5663 SB	Title: Virtual campus/colleges	Agency: 340-Student Achievement Council
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Part I: Estimates

☐ No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	58,000	21,000	79,000	0	0
Total \$	58,000	21,000	79,000	0	0

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- ☒ If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- ☐ If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- ☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- ☐ Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Kellee Gunn	Phone: 786-7429	Date: 02/04/2025
Agency Preparation: Abby Chien	Phone: 360-485-1217	Date: 02/07/2025
Agency Approval: Brian Richardson	Phone: 360-485-1124	Date: 02/07/2025
OFM Review: Ramona Nabors	Phone: (360) 742-8948	Date: 02/16/2025

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

HB 5663 establishes a virtual campus for all Washingtonians via the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC).

The bill requires SBCTC to develop a plan for the virtual campus, in collaboration with WSAC and an association representing faculty at the community and technical colleges. SBCTC is required to report to the legislature by December 1, 2026, its plan, including recommendations for legislation, to establish a virtual campus by the 2028-29 academic year.

The plan will:

- * Review and develop additional policies to ensure students can view all courses provided entirely online by each respective CTC, simultaneously enroll across in courses at the student’s home college and courses provided entirely online by another college without formal admission and without payment of additional fees or tuition and the ability to electronically transfer all relevant enrollment data from another college to the student’s home college;
- * Provide a timeline with explicit dates for when agreements must be in place for cross enrollment;
- * Ensure courses are available through the virtual campus, as well as materials;
- * Lay out a fair and reasonable method for calculating head count or FTE equivalent for students enrolled entirely online;
- * Establish policies that guarantee compliance with state law regarding the cost of tuition for nonresident and international students;
- * Establish that a student is only qualified to participate in a program based on their enrollment on a home college.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

WSAC assumes the agency will need to actively engage in the planning process, supporting SBCTC’s collaborative effort. Therefore, staffing is required to collaborate and plan as outlined in the bill through the duration of the planning period.

WSAC would need 0.3 FTE Associate Director costing \$58K in FY26, decreasing to 0.1 FTE Associate Director costing \$21K in FY27, to convene the financial aid administrators to develop the processes and policies regarding the calculation of student awards and enrollment, and to collaborate and contribute to all other planning outcomes dictated in the plan. Planning would be completed by December 1, 2026.

Staff time estimates are rounded to the nearest 0.1 FTE and staff-related and other costs are rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
001-1	General Fund	State	58,000	21,000	79,000	0	0
Total \$			58,000	21,000	79,000	0	0

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	0.3		0.2		
A-Salaries and Wages	33,000	11,000	44,000		
B-Employee Benefits	7,000	3,000	10,000		
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	17,000	6,000	23,000		
G-Travel	1,000	1,000	2,000		
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
Total \$	58,000	21,000	79,000	0	0

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Associate Director	110,000	0.3		0.2		
Total FTEs		0.3		0.2		0.0

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

Program	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Policy and Administration (010)	58,000	21,000	79,000		
Total \$	58,000	21,000	79,000		

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact**IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures**

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout*Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.*

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required*Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.*

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 5663 SB	Title: Virtual campus/colleges	Agency: 699-Community and Technica College System
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Part I: Estimates

☐ No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.
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Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	4.0	3.0	3.5	3.0	3.0
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	713,000	398,000	1,111,000	796,000	796,000
Total \$	713,000	398,000	1,111,000	796,000	796,000

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- ☒ If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- ☐ If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- ☐ Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- ☒ Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Kellee Gunn	Phone: 786-7429	Date: 02/04/2025
Agency Preparation: Stephanie Winner	Phone: 360-704-1023	Date: 02/16/2025
Agency Approval: Stephanie Winner	Phone: 360-704-1023	Date: 02/16/2025
OFM Review: Ramona Nabors	Phone: (360) 742-8948	Date: 02/16/2025

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Sec. 1 This bill would permit community and technical colleges to distribute information on their respective colleges outside their district when it pertains to entirely online course offerings. Community and technical colleges may not compete with each other or with other institutions of higher education for enrollments.

Sec. 2 (13) Charges the state board for community and technical college with the establishment and maintenance of a searchable website containing all entirely online course offerings offered by all community and technical colleges.

- Implemented by the start of academic year 2026-27
- Will serve as the foundation for a virtual campus for all Washingtonians
- Must allow for cross enrollment by students as specified in Sec. 3

Sec. 3 (1) The state board for community and technical colleges in collaboration with the Washington student achievement council and faculty associations shall develop a plan for a virtual campus. The plan must:

- Review and develop policies that ensure students have access to view all entirely online courses offered by each of the community and technical colleges.
- Provide the option to enroll in courses at the student's home college and simultaneously enroll in courses offered entirely online by another college without formal admission and without payment of additional fees or tuition.
- Be able to electronically transfer all relevant enrollment data to the student's home college.
- Provide a definite timeline for cross-enrollment agreements between participating institutions.
- Ensure that technology and materials used are accessible to students.
- Define a fair and reasonable method calculating headcount or full-time equivalent for students enrolled exclusively online through the virtual campus.
- Establish policies that guarantee compliance with state tuition policies.
- Establish that student is only qualified to participate in virtual campus if they are enrolled at a home college

Sec. 3 (2) The state board for community and technical colleges shall report its plans and recommendations to legislature by December 1, 2026. The recommendation shall include proposed legislation for establishing a virtual campus by academic year 2028-29.

Sec. 3 (3) The state board for community and technical colleges shall provide a publicly available website that provides a way for students to find and enroll in entirely online courses offered by community and technical colleges by academic year 2026-27.

For the purpose of this section, "home college" means the community or technical college at which a student is matriculated

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

It is unknown how many new students this may attract or how many additional credits current students may enroll in using the virtual campus with cross-enrollment.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

This bill would have the following impacts:

The functionality needed for cross-enrollment and a virtual college does not exist within the current capabilities of the software used by the community and technical college system (ctcLink). The requirements outlined in section 2 (13) would require either implementation of a large-scale customization within ctcLink or development of a supplemental tool and web interface that integrates with ctcLink to enable the required cross-enrollment functionality and manage data effectively.

Sec. 2 Website Development & Maintenance

- Create and maintain a ctcLink customization or searchable website that includes all online courses offered by community and technical colleges.
- Ensure the solution supports cross-enrollment functionality and complies with accessibility standards.

Sec. 3 Requirements Definition & Plan Development

- Convene a workgroup to gather requirements for the virtual campus and develop a comprehensive plan, including policies on cross-enrollment, data transfer, and tuition compliance.

Sec. 3 (2) and (3) Policy Development & Reporting

- Develop cross-enrollment policies and establish implementation timelines.
- Reporting to external agencies and colleges.

Technical/Web Developer 1.0 FTE x (\$132,000 salary and benefits) FY26 onward

- Responsible for designing, developing, and maintaining the customization and/or website, ensuring scalability, security, and seamless data integration.

Functional Analyst 1.0 FTE x (\$124,000 salary and benefits) FY26 onward

- Handles ongoing issues, system updates, and maintenance.
- Works with technical teams to translate requirements into actionable plans, identifies system capabilities, and ensures the solution meets both short- and long-term objectives.
- This role also includes reviewing and validating the development process to ensure the plan is operationally viable and aligns with end-user needs.

Project Manager 1.0 FTE x (\$153,000 salary and benefits) FY26 only

- Oversee the development process, coordinates with colleges, and ensures timelines are met.
- Assists with scheduling meetings, gathering feedback, ensuring deliverables are met, and establishing timelines and reporting.
- Assists with gathering data and compiling reports for external agencies

Policy Associate 1.0 FTE x (\$142,000 salary and benefits) FY26 onward

- Leads the workgroup, coordinates with the Washington Student Achievement Council, colleges, and other stakeholders, with a focus on policy development.
- Focuses on developing cross-enrollment agreements and ensuring compliance with state tuition policies.

Workgroup to gather requirements, develop plans, and policies.

\$3,000 (staff time and travel estimate) x 34 colleges = \$102,000 FY26 only

Marketing campaign to inform current and potential students

\$5,000/month x 12 months = \$60,000 FY26

Total ongoing costs: \$132,000 (web) + \$124,000 (functional) + \$142,000 (policy) = \$398,000 FY26 onward

Total one-time costs: \$153,000 (project manager) + \$102,000 (workgroup) + \$60,000 (marketing campaign) = \$315,000 FY26 only

FY26 = \$713,000 FY26
 FY27 = \$398,000 FY27 onward

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
001-1	General Fund	State	713,000	398,000	1,111,000	796,000	796,000
Total \$			713,000	398,000	1,111,000	796,000	796,000

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
FTE Staff Years	4.0	3.0	3.5	3.0	3.0
A-Salaries and Wages	469,700	295,000	764,700	590,000	590,000
B-Employee Benefits	176,160	103,000	279,160	206,000	206,000
C-Professional Service Contracts					
E-Goods and Other Services	60,000		60,000		
G-Travel	7,140		7,140		
J-Capital Outlays					
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements					
9-					
Total \$	713,000	398,000	1,111,000	796,000	796,000

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2026	FY 2027	2025-27	2027-29	2029-31
Functional analyst	92,000	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Policy Associate	105,000	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Project Manager	113,500	1.0		0.5		
Technical/Web Developer	98,000	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total FTEs		4.0	3.0	3.5	3.0	3.0

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Requires policy and WAC changes.