



UNDERSTANDING THE 1.30 AAFTE LIMIT

Examples of Maximizing Full- and Part-Time Running Start Enrollment

In March 2026, the Washington State Legislature passed its supplemental operating appropriations bill - [Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill \(ESSB\) 5998](#) - lowering the Running Start AAFTE limit from 1.40 in 2025-2026 to 1.30 in 2026-2027. **The change does not eliminate summer Running Start, but it does impact the FTE available for students to take full advantage of it.** Importantly, it does not impact Running Start limits leading into the summer of 2026. While it remains to be seen what the AAFTE limitation will be going forward, K-12 and postsecondary education partners have developed the following resource to clarify the legislative change to the enrollment limitation for 2026-2027 and provide examples of how students can maximize it in the year ahead.

Below are examples of common enrollment patterns that demonstrate how a Running Start student can maximize the **1.30 AAFTE** limit. Each example shows how different credit combinations across Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer terms can be used to maximize allowable credits while maintaining full-time status at the college or splitting FTE between the high school and college. As demonstrated in Example 1, OSPI has determined that the maximum distribution may include 20 credits **in the Spring term only** to ensure that students do not inadvertently or prematurely exceed the AAFTE limit. Under most circumstances, when students wish to exceed 18 college credits, approval for enrollment overload must be granted by the college.

Common Enrollment Pattern Examples

Example 1: Maximum School Year College Enrollment (No High School and No Summer)

19 / 19 / 20 Credits

A student can reach the 1.30 AAFTE maximum by enrolling in **19 credits in Fall, 19 credits in Winter, and 20 credits in Spring** on the RSEVF. This schedule maximizes the student's college enrollment each term of the standard school year and accumulates enough annual credits to reach the 1.30 AAFTE cap. This approach does not leave any AAFTE for summer enrollment.

Example 2: Maximum College Enrollment w/ Summer (No High School)

18 / 17 / 17 + 10 Summer Credits

Another way to maximize the 1.3 AAFTE limit is to take **18 credits for any one standard year quarter, 17 credits for any two quarters**, then add **10 credits during the Summer term**. This



approach maximizes college enrollment during the school year while maintaining AAFTE capacity for a full 10-credit Summer term.

Example 3: Minimal High School Split w/ Summer

15 / 15 / 15 + 10 Summer Credits

A student may take **15 college credits in each term**, maintaining full-time (15 college credits) college enrollment, followed by **10 credits in Summer**. This combination leaves minimal room for high school enrollment, but the college FTE can be decreased in any term to accommodate high school classes. For students only enrolling at the college, 15-credit Fall and Winter terms would leave room for a heavier Spring term.

Example 4: Balanced College/HS Split w/ Summer

10 / 10 / 10 + 10 Summer Credits

A part-time Running Start student can take three HS classes that are each 0.17 FTE with 10 college credits for Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer.

A part-time Running Start student could maximize the 1.3 AAFTE limit in a number of ways, but this is one well-balanced example of how to do so while maintaining maximum summer eligibility.

Example 5: Maximum College Enrollment for Semester Credit (No High School and No Summer)

19 / 20 Semester Credits

At a semester college, a student may take 19 credits for the Fall term and 20 credits for the Spring term. This maximizes enrollment under the 1.30 limit, leaving no AAFTE capacity for summer.

Example 6: Maximum College Enrollment for Semester Credit w/ Summer

17 / 17 + 10 Summer Credits

At a semester college, a student may take 17 credits for the Fall and Spring terms and still have the opportunity to enroll for 10 summer credits.

Key Reminders

- The 1.30 AAFTE limit applies to the full academic year, including summer
- Summer Running Start remains available under the 1.30 AAFTE limit
- **These examples apply to the 2026 2027 academic year only**
 - Future AAFTE limits will depend on legislative action and are not yet known
- Students may not exceed the annual AAFTE limit even if term credit limits differ
- Colleges may set local limits on maximum credits per term or require enrollment overload approval
- **The examples above are not inclusive of all possible FTE combinations**
- The FTE calculator can be used to explore other approaches to enrolling students under the 1.30 AAFTE limit

Resources

2026-27 RSEVF Form Links

[2026-27 RSEVF Digital Signature Form](#)

[2026-27 RSEVF Non-Digital Signature Form](#)

Running Start Funding Limit Table

Running Start Funding Limit Table						Available College Enrollment	
Enrolled High School						Max Allowed FTE	Max Credits
Weekly Minutes based on high school bell schedule		FTE			Max Allowed FTE	Max Credits	
For the spring quarter only & under 1.27 AAFTE after the Winter term							
0	-	58	-	-	0.03	1.33	20 *
0	-	58	-	-	0.03	1.27	19 *
59	-	174	0.04	-	0.10	1.20	18
175	-	291	0.11	-	0.17	1.13	17
292	-	391	0.18	-	0.23	1.07	16
392	-	507	0.24	-	0.30	1.00	15
508	-	624	0.31	-	0.37	0.93	14
625	-	724	0.38	-	0.43	0.87	13
725	-	840	0.44	-	0.50	0.80	12
841	-	957	0.51	-	0.57	0.73	11
958	-	1,057	0.58	-	0.63	0.67	10
1,058	-	1,173	0.64	-	0.70	0.60	9
1,174	-	1,290	0.71	-	0.77	0.53	8
1,291	-	1,390	0.78	-	0.83	0.47	7
1,391	-	1,506	0.84	-	0.90	0.40	6
1,507	-	1,623	0.91	-	0.97	0.33	5
1,624	-	or more	0.98	-	1.00	0.27	4

* Students should check with college about the maximum number of credits allowed. Overages may require college approval.

1.3 FTE Table ([click here for download](#))

	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	AAF TE	Jul	Aug	AAFTE as of Aug
High School FTE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
College FTE		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			-

Contact Information

If you have questions about this tool, FTE calculation, or enrollment reporting, please contact OSPI's Enrollment Reporting and Categorical Funding Manager, Becky McLean, at becky.mclean@k12.wa.us.

If you have questions about Running Start program requirements or recent legislative changes, please contact Dual Credit Program Supervisor, Tim McClain, at tim.mcclain@k12.wa.us.

If you have broader Running Start questions, SBCTC policy context, or system level coordination questions, please contact Policy Associate, Student Services & K-12 Alignment, Stephanie Wahl, at swahl@sbctc.edu.