
HOUSE BILL 2978

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Stokesbary and Magendanz

Read first time 02/08/16. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to school choice; amending RCW 28A.655.110;
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.657 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.657
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) As used in this section, "low-performing school" means a
8 common school identified by the office of the superintendent of
9 public instruction, as required under the federal every student
10 succeeds act, as: A school in the bottom five percent of performers,
11 a high school graduating fewer than two-thirds of students, or a
12 school in which a subgroup of students is consistently
13 underperforming.

14 (2)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
15 must grant the request of a student's parent or guardian for the
16 student to enroll in and attend a common school in accordance with
17 the provisions of this section if the student:

18 (i) Spent the prior school year in attendance at a low-performing
19 school;

1 (ii) Was in attendance elsewhere in the common school system and
2 has been assigned to a low-performing school for the next school
3 year; or

4 (iii) Was notified that he or she has been assigned to a low-
5 performing school for the next school year.

6 (b) For purposes of continuity of educational choice, the
7 permission granted under this section must remain in effect until the
8 student graduates from high school.

9 (3) A school district must, for each student who meets the
10 criteria in subsection (2)(a) of this section:

11 (a) Notify the parent or guardian of the student of all options
12 available under this section upon being identified as a low-
13 performing school;

14 (b) Provide the parent or guardian of the student with an
15 opportunity to enroll the student in a higher performing common
16 school within the district;

17 (c) Provide the student with the opportunity to continue
18 attendance in the higher performing common school's feeder pattern
19 until the student graduates from high school; and

20 (d) If the parent or guardian of the student chooses to enroll
21 the student in a higher performing common school in the district,
22 incur the cost of transporting the student to the chosen school.

23 (4)(a) The parent or guardian of a student who meets the criteria
24 in subsection (2)(a) of this section may, as an alternative to the
25 school district offer under subsection (3)(b) of this section, choose
26 to enroll the student in and transport the student to a higher
27 performing common school in any school district in the state that has
28 enrollment capacity.

29 (b) The school district selected by the parent or guardian under
30 (a) of this subsection must accept the student and report the
31 enrollment of the student to the office of the superintendent of
32 public instruction.

33 (c) If the parent or guardian of a student who meets the criteria
34 in subsection (2)(a) of this section enrolls the student in another
35 school district, in accordance with this subsection (4), the office
36 of the superintendent of public instruction shall, if funds are
37 appropriated for this specific purpose, distribute to the student's
38 resident school district funding to compensate the district for the
39 funding lost due to the student's transfer.

1 (5) This section does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a
2 school operating for the purposes of providing educational services
3 to youth in education programs for juvenile inmates, under chapters
4 28A.193 and 28A.194 RCW.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.110 and 2010 c 235 s 703 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning with the 1994-95 school year, to provide the local
8 community and electorate with access to information on the
9 educational programs in the schools in the district, each school
10 shall publish annually a school performance report and deliver the
11 report to each parent with children enrolled in the school and make
12 the report available to the community served by the school. The
13 annual performance report shall be in a form that can be easily
14 understood and be used by parents, guardians, and other members of
15 the community who are not professional educators to make informed
16 educational decisions. As data from the assessments in RCW
17 28A.655.060 becomes available, the annual performance report should
18 enable parents, educators, and school board members to determine
19 whether students in the district's schools are attaining mastery of
20 the student learning goals under RCW 28A.150.210, and other important
21 facts about the schools' performance in assisting students to learn.
22 The annual report shall make comparisons to a school's performance in
23 preceding years, student performance relative to the goals and the
24 percentage of students performing at each level of the assessment, a
25 comparison of student performance at each level of the assessment to
26 the previous year's performance, and information regarding school-
27 level plans to achieve the goals.

28 (2) The annual performance report shall include, but not be
29 limited to: (a) A brief statement of the mission of the school and
30 the school district; (b) enrollment statistics including student
31 demographics; (c) expenditures per pupil for the school year; (d) a
32 summary of student scores on all mandated tests; (e) a concise annual
33 budget report; (f) student attendance, graduation, and dropout rates;
34 (g) the performance of the school and the school district on the
35 Washington achievement index developed under RCW 28A.657.110; (h)
36 information regarding the use and condition of the school building or
37 buildings; ~~((h))~~ (i) a brief description of the learning
38 improvement plans for the school; ~~((i))~~ (j) a summary of the
39 feedback from parents and community members obtained under RCW

1 28A.655.115; and (~~(j)~~) (k) an invitation to all parents and
2 citizens to participate in school activities.

3 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop by
4 June 30, 1994, and update periodically, a model report form, which
5 shall also be adapted for computers, that schools may use to meet the
6 requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this section. In order to
7 make school performance reports broadly accessible to the public, the
8 superintendent of public instruction, to the extent feasible, shall
9 make information on each school's report available on or through the
10 superintendent's internet web site.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the
12 school choice act.

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