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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5953**

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**State of Washington**

**52nd Legislature**

**1992 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Senator Bailey)

Read first time 02/26/92.

1       AN ACT Relating to education; amending RCW 28A.410.040,  
2 28A.410.050, 28A.410.030, 28A.405.220, 28A.150.040, 41.59.020,  
3 41.56.030, 28A.150.230, and 28A.230.090; adding new sections to chapter  
4 28A.320 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28A.230 RCW; adding a new  
5 section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

7       NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 1.**       (1) The legislature finds that:

8       (a) Academic achievement of Washington students can and should be  
9 improved;

10       (b) Student success, in large part, depends on parents'  
11 involvement, both at home and at school, in the education of their  
12 child;

13       (c) Many school districts across the state are engaged in efforts  
14 to reevaluate and restructure their local education programs;

1 (d) State support can help sustain and accelerate the momentum of  
2 educational restructuring initiatives.

3 (2) The legislature recognizes that the public education system, as  
4 the foundation of our society, faces critical issues that reflect the  
5 public's increasing concern regarding the effectiveness and  
6 accountability of our public schools. The legislature finds that these  
7 issues can be addressed by:

8 (a) Increasing public confidence in the professional preparation  
9 and training of educators;

10 (b) Establishing rights and responsibilities of parents to  
11 knowledgeably participate in the education of their children;

12 (c) Measuring and reporting student achievement in a manner that  
13 encourages accountability to and understanding by the public;

14 (d) Increasing the broad powers and accountability of school  
15 boards; and

16 (e) Establishing a state-level panel to monitor and report on the  
17 progress of educational reform and restructuring efforts throughout the  
18 state.

19 PART I

20 ENHANCING THE TEACHING PROFESSION

21 **Sec. 101.** RCW 28A.410.040 and 1990 c 33 s 406 are each amended to  
22 read as follows:

23 (1) The state board of education shall adopt rules providing that,  
24 except as provided in this section, all individuals qualifying for an  
25 initial-level teaching certificate after August 31, 1992, shall possess  
26 a baccalaureate degree in the arts, sciences, and/or humanities and  
27 have fulfilled the requirements for teacher certification pursuant to  
28 RCW 28A.305.130 (1) and (2). ~~((The state board of education shall  
29 develop and adopt rules establishing baccalaureate degree equivalency~~

1 standards for certification of vocational instructors performing  
2 instructional duties and acquiring initial level certification after  
3 August 31, 1992.) However, candidates for grades preschool through  
4 eight certificates shall have fulfilled the requirements for a major as  
5 part of their baccalaureate degree. If the major is in early childhood  
6 education, elementary education, or special education, the candidate  
7 must have at least thirty quarter hours or twenty semester hours in one  
8 academic field.

9 (2) (~~The state board of education shall study the impact of~~  
10 ~~eliminating the major in education under subsection (1) of this section~~  
11 ~~and submit a report to the legislature by January 15, 1990. The report~~  
12 ~~shall include a recommendation on whether the major in education under~~  
13 ~~subsection (1) of this section should be eliminated.~~

14 (3)) The initial certificate shall be valid for ((two years.

15 (4) ~~Certificate holders may renew the certificate for a three year~~  
16 ~~period by providing proof of acceptance and enrollment in an approved~~  
17 ~~masters degree program. A second renewal, for a period of two years,~~  
18 ~~may be granted upon recommendation of the degree granting institution~~  
19 ~~and if the certificate holder can demonstrate substantial progress~~  
20 ~~toward the completion of the masters degree and that the degree will be~~  
21 ~~completed within the two year extension period. Under no circumstances~~  
22 ~~may an initial certificate be valid for)) a period of no more than  
23 seven years. The initial certificate may be reinstated pursuant to  
24 state board of education rules.~~

25 **Sec. 102.** RCW 28A.410.050 and 1989 c 29 s 2 are each amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 ((~~(1) The state board of education shall implement rules providing~~  
28 ~~that all teachers performing instructional duties and acquiring~~  
29 ~~professional level certificate status after August 31, 1992, shall~~

1 possess, as a requirement of professional status, a masters degree in  
2 teaching, or a masters degree in the arts, sciences, and/or humanities.  
3 ~~(2))~~ The state board of education shall develop and adopt rules  
4 establishing baccalaureate and masters degree equivalency standards for  
5 vocational instructors performing instructional duties and acquiring  
6 ~~((professional level))~~ certification after August 31, 1992.

7 **Sec. 103.** RCW 28A.410.030 and 1991 c 116 s 21 are each amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 (1) The state board of education shall require a ~~((uniform))~~ state  
10 ~~((admission))~~ entrance to practice examination ~~((for—teacher~~  
11 ~~certification—candidates))~~. Commencing August 31, 1993, ~~((teacher~~  
12 ~~certification))~~ candidates completing a teacher preparation program and  
13 applying for initial teacher certification shall be required by the  
14 state board of education to pass an ~~((admission))~~ entrance to practice  
15 examination before being granted an initial certificate.

16 (2) The examination shall include essay questions and test  
17 ~~((knowledge and competence in subjects including, but not limited to,))~~  
18 the person's:

19 (a) Knowledge of subject matter; and

20 (b) Knowledge in instructional skills, classroom management, and  
21 student behavior and development. ~~((The examination shall consist~~  
22 ~~primarily of essay questions.))~~

23 (3) The state board of education shall adopt such rules under  
24 chapter 34.05 RCW as may be necessary to implement this section. The  
25 state board rules shall include provisions for handling those cases in  
26 which a candidate for certification passes only one part of the  
27 examination under subsection (2) of this section.

1       **Sec. 104.** RCW 28A.405.220 and 1990 c 33 s 391 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       Notwithstanding the provisions of RCW 28A.405.210, every person  
4 employed by a school district in a teaching or other nonsupervisory  
5 certificated position shall be subject to nonrenewal of employment  
6 contract as provided in this section during the first three years of  
7 employment by such district, unless the employee has previously  
8 completed at least three years of certificated employment in another  
9 school district in the state of Washington, in which case the employee  
10 shall be subject to nonrenewal of employment contract pursuant to this  
11 section during the first year of employment with the new district.  
12 Employees as defined in this section shall hereinafter be referred to  
13 as "provisional employees".

14       In the event the superintendent of the school district determines  
15 that the employment contract of any provisional employee should not be  
16 renewed by the district for the next ensuing term such provisional  
17 employee shall be notified thereof in writing on or before May 15th  
18 preceding the commencement of such school term, which notification  
19 shall state the reason or reasons for such determination. Such notice  
20 shall be served upon the provisional employee personally, or by  
21 certified or registered mail, or by leaving a copy of the notice at the  
22 place of his or her usual abode with some person of suitable age and  
23 discretion then resident therein. The determination of the  
24 superintendent shall be subject to the evaluation requirements of RCW  
25 28A.405.100.

26       Every such provisional employee so notified, at his or her request  
27 made in writing and filed with the superintendent of the district  
28 within ten days after receiving such notice, shall be given the  
29 opportunity to meet informally with the superintendent for the purpose  
30 of requesting the superintendent to reconsider his or her decision.

1 Such meeting shall be held no later than ten days following the receipt  
2 of such request, and the provisional employee shall be given written  
3 notice of the date, time and place of meeting at least three days prior  
4 thereto. At such meeting the provisional employee shall be given the  
5 opportunity to refute any facts upon which the superintendent's  
6 determination was based and to make any argument in support of his or  
7 her request for reconsideration.

8 Within ten days following the meeting with the provisional  
9 employee, the superintendent shall either reinstate the provisional  
10 employee or shall submit to the school district board of directors for  
11 consideration at its next regular meeting a written report recommending  
12 that the employment contract of the provisional employee be nonrenewed  
13 and stating the reason or reasons therefor. A copy of such report  
14 shall be delivered to the provisional employee at least three days  
15 prior to the scheduled meeting of the board of directors. In taking  
16 action upon the recommendation of the superintendent, the board of  
17 directors shall consider any written communication which the  
18 provisional employee may file with the secretary of the board at any  
19 time prior to that meeting.

20 The board of directors shall notify the provisional employee in  
21 writing of its final decision within ten days following the meeting at  
22 which the superintendent's recommendation was considered. The decision  
23 of the board of directors to nonrenew the contract of a provisional  
24 employee shall be final and not subject to appeal.

25 This section applies to any person employed by a school district in  
26 a teaching or other nonsupervisory certificated position after June 25,  
27 1976. This section provides the exclusive means for nonrenewing the  
28 employment contract of a provisional employee and no other provision of  
29 law shall be applicable thereto, including, without limitation, RCW  
30 28A.405.210 and chapter 28A.645 RCW.

PART II

PARENT'S RIGHTS

**Sec. 201.** RCW 28A.150.040 and 1990 c 33 s 101 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The school year shall begin on the first day of September and end with the last day of August: PROVIDED, That any school district may elect to commence the minimum annual school term as required under RCW 28A.150.220 in the month of August of any calendar year and in such case the operation of a school district for such period in August shall be credited by the superintendent of public instruction to the succeeding school year for the purpose of the allocation and distribution of state funds for the support of such school district.

(2) By May 30 of each year, the board of directors of each school district shall, following a public hearing, establish the schedule of days for students to attend school during the succeeding school year. The days so designated shall be employee work days and shall not be subject to collective bargaining. However, employee work days beyond those scheduled for student attendance may be a subject of collective bargaining.

**Sec. 202.** RCW 41.59.020 and 1989 c 11 s 11 are each amended to read as follows:

As used in this chapter:

(1) The term "employee organization" means any organization, union, association, agency, committee, council, or group of any kind in which employees participate, and which exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of collective bargaining with employers.

(2) The term "collective bargaining" or "bargaining" means the performance of the mutual obligation of the representatives of the

1 employer and the exclusive bargaining representative to meet at  
2 reasonable times in light of the time limitations of the budget-making  
3 process, and to bargain in good faith in an effort to reach agreement  
4 with respect to the wages, hours, and terms and conditions of  
5 employment: PROVIDED, That prior law, practice or interpretation shall  
6 be neither restrictive, expansive, nor determinative with respect to  
7 the scope of bargaining. A written contract incorporating any  
8 agreements reached shall be executed if requested by either party. The  
9 obligation to bargain does not compel either party to agree to a  
10 proposal or to make a concession.

11 In the event of a dispute between an employer and an exclusive  
12 bargaining representative over the matters that are terms and  
13 conditions of employment, the commission shall decide which item(s) are  
14 mandatory subjects for bargaining and which item(s) are nonmandatory.  
15 The schedule of days for students to attend school, as established by  
16 the school district board of directors under RCW 28A.150.040, shall not  
17 be a subject of collective bargaining.

18 (3) The term "commission" means the public employment relations  
19 commission established by RCW 41.58.010.

20 (4) The terms "employee" and "educational employee" means any  
21 certificated employee of a school district, except:

22 (a) The chief executive officer of the employer.

23 (b) The chief administrative officers of the employer, which shall  
24 mean the superintendent of the district, deputy superintendents,  
25 administrative assistants to the superintendent, assistant  
26 superintendents, and business manager. Title variation from all  
27 positions enumerated in this subsection (b) may be appealed to the  
28 commission for determination of inclusion in, or exclusion from, the  
29 term "educational employee".

30 (c) Confidential employees, which shall mean:



1 (i) Any person who participates directly on behalf of an employer  
2 in the formulation of labor relations policy, the preparation for or  
3 conduct of collective bargaining, or the administration of collective  
4 bargaining agreements, except that the role of such person is not  
5 merely routine or clerical in nature but calls for the consistent  
6 exercise of independent judgment; and

7 (ii) Any person who assists and acts in a confidential capacity to  
8 such person.

9 (d) Unless included within a bargaining unit pursuant to RCW  
10 41.59.080, any supervisor, which means any employee having authority,  
11 in the interest of an employer, to hire, assign, promote, transfer,  
12 layoff, recall, suspend, discipline, or discharge other employees, or  
13 to adjust their grievances, or to recommend effectively such action, if  
14 in connection with the foregoing the exercise of such authority is not  
15 merely routine or clerical in nature but calls for the consistent  
16 exercise of independent judgment, and shall not include any persons  
17 solely by reason of their membership on a faculty tenure or other  
18 governance committee or body. The term "supervisor" shall include only  
19 those employees who perform a preponderance of the above-specified acts  
20 of authority.

21 (e) Unless included within a bargaining unit pursuant to RCW  
22 41.59.080, principals and assistant principals in school districts.

23 (5) The term "employer" means any school district.

24 (6) The term "exclusive bargaining representative" means any  
25 employee organization which has:

26 (a) Been selected or designated pursuant to the provisions of this  
27 chapter as the representative of the employees in an appropriate  
28 collective bargaining unit; or

1 (b) Prior to January 1, 1976, been recognized under a predecessor  
2 statute as the representative of the employees in an appropriate  
3 collective bargaining or negotiations unit.

4 (7) The term "person" means one or more individuals, organizations,  
5 unions, associations, partnerships, corporations, boards, committees,  
6 commissions, agencies, or other entities, or their representatives.

7 (8) The term "nonsupervisory employee" means all educational  
8 employees other than principals, assistant principals and supervisors.

9 **Sec. 203.** RCW 41.56.030 and 1991 c 363 s 119 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 As used in this chapter:

12 (1) "Public employer" means any officer, board, commission,  
13 council, or other person or body acting on behalf of any public body  
14 governed by this chapter as designated by RCW 41.56.020, or any  
15 subdivision of such public body. For the purposes of this section, the  
16 public employer of district court employees for wage-related matters is  
17 the respective county legislative authority, or person or body acting  
18 on behalf of the legislative authority, and the public employer for  
19 nonwage-related matters is the judge or judge's designee of the  
20 respective district court.

21 (2) "Public employee" means any employee of a public employer  
22 except any person (a) elected by popular vote, or (b) appointed to  
23 office pursuant to statute, ordinance or resolution for a specified  
24 term of office by the executive head or body of the public employer, or  
25 (c) whose duties as deputy, administrative assistant or secretary  
26 necessarily imply a confidential relationship to the executive head or  
27 body of the applicable bargaining unit, or any person elected by  
28 popular vote or appointed to office pursuant to statute, ordinance or  
29 resolution for a specified term of office by the executive head or body

1 of the public employer, or (d) who is a personal assistant to a  
2 district judge or court commissioner. For the purpose of (d) of this  
3 subsection, no more than one assistant for each judge or commissioner  
4 may be excluded from a bargaining unit.

5 (3) "Bargaining representative" means any lawful organization which  
6 has as one of its primary purposes the representation of employees in  
7 their employment relations with employers.

8 (4) "Collective bargaining" means the performance of the mutual  
9 obligations of the public employer and the exclusive bargaining  
10 representative to meet at reasonable times, to confer and negotiate in  
11 good faith, and to execute a written agreement with respect to  
12 grievance procedures and collective negotiations on personnel matters,  
13 including wages, hours and working conditions, which may be peculiar to  
14 an appropriate bargaining unit of such public employer, except that by  
15 such obligation neither party shall be compelled to agree to a proposal  
16 or be required to make a concession unless otherwise provided in this  
17 chapter. In the case of the Washington state patrol, "collective  
18 bargaining" shall not include wages and wage-related matters. In the  
19 case of employees of school districts, "collective bargaining" does not  
20 include the schedule of days for students to attend school, as  
21 established by the school district board of directors under RCW  
22 28A.150.040.

23 (5) "Commission" means the public employment relations commission.

24 (6) "Executive director" means the executive director of the  
25 commission.

26 (7) "Uniformed personnel" means (a) law enforcement officers as  
27 defined in RCW 41.26.030 as now or hereafter amended, of cities with a  
28 population of fifteen thousand or more or law enforcement officers  
29 employed by the governing body of any county with a population of

1 seventy thousand or more, or (b) fire fighters as that term is defined  
2 in RCW 41.26.030, as now or hereafter amended.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 204.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) The board of directors of each school district may exercise the  
6 following:

7 (a) The broad discretionary power to determine and adopt written  
8 policies not in conflict with other law that provide for the  
9 development and implementation of programs, activities, services, or  
10 practices that the board determines will:

11 (i) Promote the education of kindergarten through twelfth grade  
12 students in the public schools; or

13 (ii) Promote the effective, efficient, or safe management and  
14 operation of the school district;

15 (b) Such powers as are expressly authorized by law; and

16 (c) Such powers as are necessarily or fairly implied in the powers  
17 expressly authorized by law.

18 (2) Before adopting a policy under subsection (1)(a) of this  
19 section, the school district board of directors shall comply with the  
20 notice requirements of the open public meetings act, chapter 42.30 RCW,  
21 and shall in addition include in that notice a statement that sets  
22 forth or reasonably describes the proposed policy. The board of  
23 directors shall provide a reasonable opportunity for public written and  
24 oral comment and consideration of the comment by the board of  
25 directors.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 205.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320  
27 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) To ensure that the local community and electorate have access  
2 to information on the educational programs in the school districts,  
3 each school district's board of directors shall publish annually a  
4 school district accountability report. School districts shall have a  
5 copy of the accountability report available for public inspection at  
6 each school in the district, at the district office, and in public  
7 libraries, and shall send the report to newspapers of general  
8 circulation in the county in which the district is located.

9 (2) The accountability report shall include a brief statement of  
10 the mission of the school district; enrollment statistics including  
11 student demographics; expenditures per pupil for the school year; the  
12 average compensation for teachers and administrators; a summary of  
13 student scores on college entrance examinations and on all state  
14 mandated tests; a concise annual budget report; the student drop-out,  
15 absenteeism, and graduation rates; and an invitation to citizens to  
16 participate in school activities. The published accountability report  
17 shall compare district, state, and national data whenever appropriate.

18 **Sec. 206.** RCW 28A.150.230 and 1991 c 61 s 1 are each amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 (1) It is the intent and purpose of this section to guarantee that  
21 each common school district board of directors, whether or not acting  
22 through its respective administrative staff, be held accountable for  
23 the proper operation of their district to the local community and its  
24 electorate. In accordance with the provisions of Title 28A RCW, as now  
25 or hereafter amended, each common school district board of directors  
26 shall be vested with the final responsibility for the setting of  
27 policies ensuring quality in the content and extent of its educational  
28 program and that such program provide students with the opportunity to

1 achieve those skills which are generally recognized as requisite to  
2 learning.

3 (2) In conformance with the provisions of Title 28A RCW, as now or  
4 hereafter amended, it shall be the responsibility of each common school  
5 district board of directors to adopt policies to:

6 (a) Establish performance criteria and an evaluation process for  
7 its certificated personnel, including administrative staff, and for all  
8 programs constituting a part of such district's curriculum;

9 (b) Determine the final assignment of staff, certificated or  
10 classified, according to board enumerated classroom and program needs;

11 (c) Determine the amount of instructional hours necessary for any  
12 student to acquire a quality education in such district, in not less  
13 than an amount otherwise required in RCW 28A.150.220, or rules and  
14 regulations of the state board of education;

15 (d) Determine the allocation of staff time, whether certificated or  
16 classified;

17 (e) Establish final curriculum standards consistent with law and  
18 rules and regulations of the state board of education, relevant to the  
19 particular needs of district students or the unusual characteristics of  
20 the district, and ensuring a quality education for each student in the  
21 district; and

22 (f) Evaluate teaching materials, including text books, teaching  
23 aids, handouts, or other printed material, in public hearing upon  
24 complaint by parents, guardians or custodians of students who consider  
25 dissemination of such material to students objectionable.

26 ~~((3) In keeping with the accountability purpose expressed in this  
27 section and to insure that the local community and electorate have  
28 access to information on the educational programs in the school  
29 districts, each school district's board of directors shall annually  
30 publish a descriptive guide to the district's common schools. This~~

1 ~~guide shall be made available at each school in the district for~~  
2 ~~examination by the public. The guide shall include, but not be limited~~  
3 ~~to, the following:~~

4 ~~(a) Criteria used for written evaluations of staff members pursuant~~  
5 ~~to RCW 28A.405.100;~~

6 ~~(b) A summary of program objectives pursuant to RCW 28A.320.210;~~

7 ~~(c) Results of comparable testing for all schools within the~~  
8 ~~district; and~~

9 ~~(d) Budget information which will include the following:~~

10 ~~(i) Student enrollment;~~

11 ~~(ii) Number of full time equivalent personnel per school in the~~  
12 ~~district itemized according to classroom teachers, instructional~~  
13 ~~support, and building administration and support services, including~~  
14 ~~itemization of such personnel by program;~~

15 ~~(iii) Number of full time equivalent personnel assigned in the~~  
16 ~~district to central administrative offices, itemized according to~~  
17 ~~instructional support, building and central administration, and support~~  
18 ~~services, including itemization of such personnel by program;~~

19 ~~(iv) Total number of full time equivalent personnel itemized by~~  
20 ~~classroom teachers, instructional support, building and central~~  
21 ~~administration, and support services, including itemization of such~~  
22 ~~personnel by program; and~~

23 ~~(v) Special levy budget request presented by program and~~  
24 ~~expenditure for purposes over and above those requirements identified~~  
25 ~~in RCW 28A.150.220.)~~

PART III

STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 301.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230

RCW to read as follows:

(1) If students' scores on the test or assessments under RCW 28A.230.190, 28A.230.230, and 28A.230.240 indicate that students need help in identified areas, the school district shall adjust the curriculum in the identified areas.

(2) Each school district shall notify the parents of each student of their child's performance on the test and assessments conducted under this chapter.

(3) The state board of education shall adopt rules establishing alternatives for special education students to receive a high school diploma.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 302.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230

RCW to read as follows:

(1) If specific funds are appropriated therefor, the superintendent of public instruction shall prepare and conduct, with the assistance of local school districts, an annual assessment of all students in grade twelve. The purpose of the assessment is to determine the competence of students in the subject matters of reading, writing, mathematics, language, science, technology, economics, history, geography, and reasoning and thinking skills.

(2) If the annual assessment under subsection (1) of this section is prepared and implemented by October 1, 1998, no student may thereafter graduate from a high school in this state unless the student has successfully completed the assessment conducted under this section.



1       **Sec. 303.** RCW 28A.230.090 and 1990 1st ex.s. c 9 s 301 are each  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       (1) The state board of education shall establish high school  
4 graduation requirements or equivalencies for students (~~who commence~~  
5 ~~the ninth grade subsequent to July 1, 1985, that meet or exceed the~~  
6 ~~following:~~

7	<del>SUBJECT</del>	<del>CREDITS</del>
8	English	3
9	Mathematics	2
10	Social Studies	
11	United States history	
12	<del>and government</del>	1
13	Washington state	
14	<del>history and government</del>	1/2
15	Contemporary world	
16	<del>history, geography,</del>	
17	<del>and problems</del>	1
18	Science (1 credit	
19	<del>must be in</del>	
20	<del>laboratory science)</del>	2
21	Occupational Education	1
22	Physical Education	2
23	Electives	5 1/2
24	Total	18

25       ~~(2) For the purposes of this section one credit is equivalent to~~  
26 ~~one year of study.~~

1       ~~(3) The Washington state history and government requirement may be~~  
2 ~~fulfilled by students in grades seven or eight or both. Students who~~  
3 ~~have completed the Washington state history and government requirement~~  
4 ~~in grades seven or eight or both shall be considered to have fulfilled~~  
5 ~~the Washington state history and government requirement.~~

6       ~~(4) A candidate for graduation must have in addition earned a~~  
7 ~~minimum of 18 credits including all required courses. These credits~~  
8 ~~shall consist of the state requirements listed above and such~~  
9 ~~additional requirements and electives as shall be established by each~~  
10 ~~district)).~~

11       ~~((+5))~~ (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state  
12 board of education to establish and enforce minimum high school  
13 graduation requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate  
14 the graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the  
15 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

16       ~~((+6))~~ (3) Pursuant to any foreign language requirement  
17 established by the state board of education or a local school district,  
18 or both, for purposes of high school graduation, students who receive  
19 instruction in sign language shall be considered to have satisfied the  
20 state or local school district foreign language graduation requirement.

21       ~~((+7))~~ (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a  
22 student who has completed high school courses ~~((while in seventh and~~  
23 ~~eighth grade))~~ before attending high school shall be given high school  
24 credit which shall be applied to fulfilling high school graduation  
25 requirements if:

26       (a) The course was taken with high school students and the student  
27 has successfully passed by completing the same course requirements and  
28 examinations as the high school students enrolled in the class; or

1 (b) The course would qualify for high school credit, because the  
2 course is similar or equivalent to a course offered at a high school in  
3 the district as determined by the school district board of directors.

4 ~~((+8+))~~ (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high  
5 school courses under the circumstances in subsection ~~((+7+))~~ (4) of  
6 this section shall not be required to take an additional competency  
7 examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive  
8 credit. Subsection ~~((+7+))~~ (4) of this section shall also apply to  
9 students enrolled in high school on April 11, 1990, who took the  
10 courses ~~((while they were in seventh and eighth grade))~~ before  
11 attending high school.

12 PART IV

13 EDUCATIONAL REFORM PROGRESS MONITORING

14 NEW SECTION. Sec. 401. A new section is added to chapter 28A.150  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) The Washington educational progress oversight panel is hereby  
17 established. The purpose of the panel is to report annually to the  
18 legislature and the governor on the progress of educational  
19 restructuring efforts throughout the state. The report shall be  
20 delivered annually by January 10th and shall include:

21 (a) Information about legislative, executive, or state agency  
22 initiatives to support educational restructuring; and

23 (b) A compendium of:

24 (i) Educational restructuring efforts within each educational  
25 service district region of the state;

26 (ii) Activities and efforts of higher education institutions,  
27 including the community and technical colleges, in support of  
28 educational restructuring among the common schools of the state.

1 (2) The oversight panel shall be comprised of the following  
2 members:

3 (a) The superintendent of public instruction or the  
4 superintendent's designee;

5 (b) The president of the state board of education or the  
6 president's designee;

7 (c) The executive director of the Washington state school  
8 directors' association or the director's designee;

9 (d) The executive director of the state board for community and  
10 technical colleges or the director's designee;

11 (e) The executive director of the higher education coordinating  
12 board or the director's designee; and

13 (f) The executive director of the work force training and education  
14 coordinating board or the director's designee.

15 (3) Staffing and resources for the oversight panel shall be  
16 contributed by each of the agencies listed under subsection (2) of this  
17 section.

18 PART V

19 MISCELLANEOUS

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 501.** Part headings as used in this act  
21 constitute no part of the law.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 502.** If any provision of this act or its  
23 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
24 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
25 persons or circumstances is not affected.