
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6178

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Bailey, Erwin, Oke, Barr, and Nelson)

Read first time 02/07/02.

1 AN ACT Relating to better schools; amending RCW 28A.410.040,
2 28A.410.050, 28A.410.030, 28A.405.220, 28A.405.230, 28A.150.040,
3 41.59.020, 41.56.030, 28A.150.230, and 28A.230.090; adding new sections
4 to chapter 28A.320 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28A.230 RCW;
5 adding a new 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.

1 **Sec. 105.** RCW 28A.405.230 and 1990 c 33 s 392 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 Any certificated employee of a school district employed as an
4 assistant superintendent, director, principal, assistant principal,
5 coordinator, or in any other supervisory or administrative position,
6 hereinafter in this section referred to as "administrator", shall be
7 subject to transfer, at the expiration of the term of his or her
8 employment contract, to any subordinate certificated position within
9 the school district. "Subordinate certificated position" as used in
10 this section, shall mean any administrative or nonadministrative
11 certificated position for which the annual compensation is less than
12 the position currently held by the administrator.

13 Every superintendent determining that the best interests of the
14 school district would be served by transferring any administrator to a
15 subordinate certificated position shall notify that administrator in
16 writing on or before May 15th preceding the commencement of such school
17 term of that determination, which notification shall state the reason
18 or reasons for the transfer, and shall identify the subordinate
19 certificated position to which the administrator will be transferred.
20 Such notice shall be served upon the administrator 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.

24 Every such administrator so notified, at his or her request made in
25 writing and filed with the president or chair, or secretary of the
26 board of directors of the district within ten days after receiving such
27 notice, shall be given the opportunity to meet informally with the
28 board of directors in an executive session thereof for the purpose of
29 requesting the board to reconsider the decision of the superintendent.
30 Such board, upon receipt of such request, shall schedule the meeting

1 for no later than the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board,
2 and shall notify the administrator in writing of the date, time and
3 place of the meeting at least three days prior thereto. At such
4 meeting the administrator shall be given the opportunity to refute any
5 facts upon which the determination was based and to make any argument
6 in support of his or her request for reconsideration. The
7 administrator and the board may invite their respective legal counsel
8 to be present and to participate at the meeting. The board shall
9 notify the administrator in writing of its final decision within ten
10 days following its meeting with the administrator. No appeal to the
11 courts shall lie from the final decision of the board of directors to
12 transfer an administrator to a subordinate certificated position(~~(+~~
13 ~~PROVIDED, That in the case of principals such transfer shall be made at~~
14 ~~the expiration of the contract year and only during the first three~~
15 ~~consecutive school years of employment as a principal by a school~~
16 ~~district; except that if any such principal has been previously~~
17 ~~employed as a principal by another school district in the state of~~
18 ~~Washington for three or more consecutive school years the provisions of~~
19 ~~this section shall apply only to the first full school year of such~~
20 ~~employment))).~~

21 This section applies to any person employed as an administrator by
22 a school district on June 25, 1976 and to all persons so employed at
23 any time thereafter. This section provides the exclusive means for
24 transferring an administrator to a subordinate certificated position at
25 the expiration of the term of his or her employment contract.

26 PART II

27 PARENT'S RIGHTS

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

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

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

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

20 As used in this chapter:

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

25 (2) The term "collective bargaining" or "bargaining" means the
26 performance of the mutual obligation of the representatives of the
27 employer and the exclusive bargaining representative to meet at
28 reasonable times in light of the time limitations of the budget-making
29 process, and to bargain in good faith in an effort to reach agreement

1 with respect to the wages, hours, and terms and conditions of
2 employment: PROVIDED, That prior law, practice or interpretation shall
3 be neither restrictive, expansive, nor determinative with respect to
4 the scope of bargaining. A written contract incorporating any
5 agreements reached shall be executed if requested by either party. The
6 obligation to bargain does not compel either party to agree to a
7 proposal or to make a concession.

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

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

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

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

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

27 (c) Confidential employees, which shall mean:

28 (i) Any person who participates directly on behalf of an employer
29 in the formulation of labor relations policy, the preparation for or
30 conduct of collective bargaining, or the administration of collective

1 bargaining agreements, except that the role of such person is not
2 merely routine or clerical in nature but calls for the consistent
3 exercise of independent judgment; and

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

6 (d) Unless included within a bargaining unit pursuant to RCW
7 41.59.080, any supervisor, which means any employee having authority,
8 in the interest of an employer, to hire, assign, promote, transfer,
9 layoff, recall, suspend, discipline, or discharge other employees, or
10 to adjust their grievances, or to recommend effectively such action, if
11 in connection with the foregoing the exercise of such authority is not
12 merely routine or clerical in nature but calls for the consistent
13 exercise of independent judgment, and shall not include any persons
14 solely by reason of their membership on a faculty tenure or other
15 governance committee or body. The term "supervisor" shall include only
16 those employees who perform a preponderance of the above-specified acts
17 of authority.

18 (e) Unless included within a bargaining unit pursuant to RCW
19 41.59.080, principals and assistant principals in school districts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 As used in this chapter:

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

18 (2) "Public employee" means any employee of a public employer
19 except any person (a) elected by popular vote, or (b) appointed to
20 office pursuant to statute, ordinance or resolution for a specified
21 term of office by the executive head or body of the public employer, or
22 (c) whose duties as deputy, administrative assistant or secretary
23 necessarily imply a confidential relationship to the executive head or
24 body of the applicable bargaining unit, or any person elected by
25 popular vote or appointed to office pursuant to statute, ordinance or
26 resolution for a specified term of office by the executive head or body
27 of the public employer, or (d) who is a personal assistant to a
28 district judge or court commissioner. For the purpose of (d) of this

1 subsection, no more than one assistant for each judge or commissioner
2 may be excluded from a bargaining unit.

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

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

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

22 (6) "Executive director" means the executive director of the
23 commission.

24 (7) "Uniformed personnel" means (a) law enforcement officers as
25 defined in RCW 41.26.030 as now or hereafter amended, of cities with a
26 population of fifteen thousand or more or law enforcement officers
27 employed by the governing body of any county with a population of
28 seventy thousand or more, or (b) fire fighters as that term is defined
29 in RCW 41.26.030, as now or hereafter amended.

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

3 (1) The board of directors of each school district may exercise the
4 following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (1) To ensure that the local community and electorate have access
27 to information on the educational programs in the school districts,
28 each school district's board of directors shall publish annually a
29 school district accountability report. School districts shall have a

1 copy of the accountability report available for public inspection at
2 each school in the district, at the district office, and in public
3 libraries, and shall send the report to newspapers of general
4 circulation in the county in which the district is located.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (d) Determine the allocation of staff time, whether certificated or
11 classified;

12 (e) Establish final curriculum standards consistent with law and
13 rules and regulations of the state board of education, relevant to the
14 particular needs of district students or the unusual characteristics of
15 the district, and ensuring a quality education for each student in the
16 district; and

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

21 ~~((3) In keeping with the accountability purpose expressed in this~~
22 ~~section and to insure that the local community and electorate have~~
23 ~~access to information on the educational programs in the school~~
24 ~~districts, each school district's board of directors shall annually~~
25 ~~publish a descriptive guide to the district's common schools. This~~
26 ~~guide shall be made available at each school in the district for~~
27 ~~examination by the public. The guide shall include, but not be limited~~
28 ~~to, the following:~~

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

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

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 302.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230
8 RCW to read as follows:

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

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

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

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

26 ——— SUBJECT ————— CREDITS

1	English	3
2	Mathematics	2
3	Social Studies	
4	United States history	
5	and government	1
6	Washington state	
7	history and government	1/2
8	Contemporary world	
9	history, geography,	
10	and problems	1
11	Science (1 credit	
12	must be in	
13	laboratory science)	2
14	Occupational Education	1
15	Physical Education	2
16	Electives	5 1/2
17	Total	18

18 (2) For the purposes of this section one credit is equivalent to
19 one year of study.

20 (3) The Washington state history and government requirement may be
21 fulfilled by students in grades seven or eight or both. Students who
22 have completed the Washington state history and government requirement
23 in grades seven or eight or both shall be considered to have fulfilled
24 the Washington state history and government requirement.

25 (4) A candidate for graduation must have in addition earned a
26 minimum of 18 credits including all required courses. These credits
27 shall consist of the state requirements listed above and such
28 additional requirements and electives as shall be established by each
29 district)).

1 (~~(5)~~) (2) In recognition of the statutory authority of the state
2 board of education to establish and enforce minimum high school
3 graduation requirements, the state board shall periodically reevaluate
4 the graduation requirements and shall report such findings to the
5 legislature in a timely manner as determined by the state board.

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

11 (~~(7)~~) (4) If requested by the student and his or her family, a
12 student who has completed high school courses (~~while in seventh and~~
13 ~~eighth grade~~) before attending high school shall be given high school
14 credit which shall be applied to fulfilling high school graduation
15 requirements if:

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

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

22 (~~(8)~~) (5) Students who have taken and successfully completed high
23 school courses under the circumstances in subsection (~~(7)~~) (4) of
24 this section shall not be required to take an additional competency
25 examination or perform any other additional assignment to receive
26 credit. Subsection (~~(7)~~) (4) of this section shall also apply to
27 students enrolled in high school on April 11, 1990, who took the
28 courses (~~while they were in seventh and eighth grade~~) before
29 attending high school.

PART IV

EDUCATIONAL REFORM PROGRESS MONITORING

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

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

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

(b) A compendium of:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 PART V

7 MISCELLANEOUS

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

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 502.** If any provision of this act or its
11 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
12 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other
13 persons or circumstances is not affected.