
HOUSE BILL 1378

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Radcliff, H. Sommers, D. Sommers, Carlson, Johnson, Sump, Costa, Mitchell, Poulsen, Linville, Dunshee, Cooke, Mason, Keiser, Wood, Kenney and Kessler

Read first time 01/23/97. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing educational opportunities for
2 students; amending RCW 28A.205.020 and 28A.205.080; adding a new
3 section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that school districts
6 may wish to provide instructional programs to students who have been
7 suspended or expelled, who are academically at risk, or who have been
8 subject to disciplinary actions due to behavioral problems. These
9 students have very different learning needs, and providing instruction
10 to these students can be difficult for school districts. The
11 legislature intends to create additional options for the education of
12 children in the event of suspension, expulsion, poor academic
13 performance, or behavioral problems, while meeting the state's
14 constitutional obligation of providing basic education to all children.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The board of directors of school districts may contract with
18 alternative educational service providers for eligible students.

1 Alternative educational service providers that the school district may
2 contract with include, but are not limited to:

3 (a) Other schools;

4 (b) Alternative education programs not operated by the school
5 district;

6 (c) Education centers;

7 (d) Skill centers;

8 (e) Dropout prevention programs; or

9 (f) Other public or private organizations, excluding sectarian or
10 religious organizations.

11 (2) Eligible students include students who have been expelled or
12 who are enrolled in the school district but have been suspended, are
13 academically at risk, or have been subject to disciplinary actions due
14 to behavioral problems.

15 (3) The contract between the school district board of directors and
16 the organization must specify the specific learning standards that
17 students are expected to achieve. Placement of the student shall be
18 jointly determined by the school district, the student's parent or
19 guardian, and the alternative educational service provider.

20 (4) The school district shall receive the same level of funding
21 from the state as if the student were enrolled in the school district's
22 state-funded apportionment program. School districts may retain up to
23 fifteen percent of the allocated funds for administrative purposes. To
24 the extent that funds are not expended for educational services to
25 eligible students under this section, funds shall lapse.

26 (5) For the purpose of this section, the superintendent of public
27 instruction shall adopt rules to permit students to reenter at the
28 grade level appropriate to the student's ability. Students who are
29 sixteen years of age or older may take the GED test.

30 (6) The board of directors of school districts may require that
31 students who are subject to suspension or expulsion attend schools or
32 programs listed in subsection (1) of this section as a condition of
33 continued enrollment in the school district.

34 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.205.020 and 1993 c 211 s 2 are each amended to
35 read as follows:

36 Only eligible common school dropouts shall be enrolled in a
37 certified education center for reimbursement by the superintendent of
38 public instruction as provided in RCW 28A.205.040. ((No)) A person

1 (~~shall be considered~~) is not an eligible common school dropout
2 (~~who~~) if: (1) The person has completed high school, (2) (~~who~~) the
3 person has not reached his or her thirteenth birthday or has passed his
4 or her twentieth birthday, (~~or~~) (3) the person shows proficiency
5 beyond the high school level in a test approved by the superintendent
6 of public instruction to be given as part of the initial diagnostic
7 procedure, or (4) (~~until~~) less than one month has passed after (~~he~~
8 ~~or she~~) the person has dropped out of any common school and the
9 education center has not received written verification from a school
10 official of the common school last attended in this state that (~~such~~)
11 the person is no longer in attendance at (~~such~~) the school (~~, unless~~
12 ~~such center has been requested to admit such person by written~~
13 ~~communication of~~). A person is an eligible common school dropout even
14 if one month has not passed since the person dropped out if the board
15 of directors or its designee, of that common school, (~~or unless such~~)
16 requests the center to admit the person because the person has dropped
17 out or because the person is unable to attend a particular common
18 school because of disciplinary reasons, including suspension and/or
19 expulsion (therefrom). The fact that any person may be subject to
20 RCW 28A.225.010 through 28A.225.150, 28A.200.010, and 28A.200.020 shall
21 not affect his or her qualifications as an eligible common school
22 dropout under this chapter.

23 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.205.080 and 1993 c 211 s 7 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 The legislature recognizes that education centers provide a
26 necessary and effective service for students who have dropped out of
27 common school programs. Education centers have demonstrated success in
28 preparing such youth for productive roles in society and are an
29 integral part of the state's program to address the needs of students
30 who have dropped out of school. The superintendent of public
31 instruction shall distribute funds, consistent with legislative
32 appropriations, allocated specifically for education centers in accord
33 with chapter 28A.205 RCW. The legislature encourages school districts
34 to explore cooperation with education centers pursuant to section 2 of
35 this act.

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