
HOUSE BILL 2318

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Representatives Cole, Wolfe, Fisher, Poulsen, Scott, Gardner, Linville, Keiser, Romero, Ogden, Butler, Appelwick, Kessler, Chopp, Costa, Anderson, Kenney, Cooper, Quall, Constantine, Mason, Sullivan, Gombosky, Lantz and Tokuda

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1 AN ACT Relating to kindergarten instruction; adding a new section
2 to chapter 28A.150 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that children may
5 benefit academically and socially during the primary years by
6 participating in full-day kindergarten programs. The legislature also
7 finds that full-day kindergarten may be especially beneficial to
8 disadvantaged students, and that increasing the learning opportunities
9 for kindergarten students will have a positive effect on reaching
10 Washington's higher academic standards. The legislature intends to
11 make tuition-free full-day kindergarten available to all public schools
12 by the 2006-07 school year.

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

15 (1) For purposes of this section, "free or reduced-price lunch"
16 means lunches served by a school district that qualify for federal
17 reimbursement as free or reduced-price lunches under the national
18 school lunch program in RCW 28A.235.140(1)(a).

1 (2) A full-day kindergarten grant program is established to provide
2 school districts with an opportunity to improve student learning
3 consistent with the student learning goals in RCW 28A.150.210 and the
4 essential academic learning requirements and academic standards
5 developed by the commission on student learning under RCW 28A.630.885.

6 (3) The full-day kindergarten grant program is established as
7 follows: In the 1998-99 school year qualifying school districts may
8 increase the time in kindergarten from one half-day to one full-day for
9 each annual average full-time equivalent kindergarten student enrolled.

10 (4) School districts may apply to the superintendent of public
11 instruction to participate in the full-day kindergarten grant program
12 beginning in the 1998-99 school year. Qualifying school districts may
13 not charge tuition for full-day kindergarten.

14 (5) To the extent funds are appropriated, the superintendent of
15 public instruction shall distribute to each qualifying school district
16 an amount sufficient to comprise a basic education allocation provided
17 in RCW 28A.150.250 for each full-time equivalent kindergarten student
18 equal to one hundred eighty full days of instruction.

19 (6) The superintendent of public instruction shall make grants
20 available by September 1, 1998. In awarding grants, the superintendent
21 of public instruction shall give priority to school districts that
22 satisfy the following criteria:

23 (a) At least fifty percent of the kindergarten through twelfth
24 grade student population is eligible for free or reduced-price lunches,
25 as determined by the superintendent of public instruction for the
26 school year in which the grants are provided; or

27 (b) The school district has more than five thousand students who
28 are participating in the free or reduced-price lunch program.

29 (7) School districts that participate in the full-day kindergarten
30 grant program shall evaluate student performance in subsequent years to
31 determine if full-day kindergarten had any long-term effects on student
32 learning.

33 (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop a
34 process for school districts to apply to participate in the full-day
35 kindergarten grant program, and shall adopt timelines and rules under
36 chapter 34.05 RCW to administer the program.

37 (9) This section does not prohibit school districts from otherwise
38 providing full-day kindergarten instructional programs.

1 (10) Funding under this section shall not become part of the
2 state's basic program of education obligation as set forth under
3 Article IX of the state Constitution.

4 (11) School districts that currently fund full-day kindergarten
5 through levies may not use a grant under this section to supplant
6 district funds spent on full-day kindergarten but may only supplement
7 existing programs until the full-day kindergarten program is available
8 state-wide, as determined by the superintendent of public instruction.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The Washington state institute for
10 public policy shall conduct or contract for an examination of the
11 characteristics of kindergarten instruction in the common schools. To
12 the extent funds are appropriated, the institute shall examine the
13 following characteristics:

14 (a) The current and projected number of kindergarten students who
15 are entering Washington's schools, their distribution within school
16 districts and schools, demographic characteristics, and socioeconomic
17 characteristics;

18 (b) Current tuition costs for all-day kindergarten and ancillary
19 costs, if any;

20 (c) Anticipated facility constraints, if any, associated with
21 implementing full-day kindergarten;

22 (d) Anticipated certificated, classified, and administrative
23 staffing needs associated with implementing full-day kindergarten; and

24 (e) Any additional considerations that may affect the
25 implementation of full-day kindergarten state-wide.

26 (2) The Washington state institute for public policy shall submit
27 the report on the characteristics of kindergarten instruction in the
28 common schools to the house of representatives and senate committees on
29 education by December 1, 1999.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** If specific funding for sections 2 and 3 of
31 this act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number and section
32 numbers, is not provided by June 30, 1998, in the supplemental omnibus
33 appropriations act, this act is null and void.

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