
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2604

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Mason, Radcliff, Johnson, Carlson, Kessler, Sheahan, Van Luven, Cole, Dickerson, Butler, Hatfield, Kenney, O'Brien, Chopp, Keiser, Anderson, Ogden, Costa, Quall and Gombosky)

Read first time 02/04/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to parent participation in education; creating a
2 new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that there is a
5 need for greater parent participation in children's education. The
6 legislature further finds that effective communication between home and
7 school increases academic achievement, improves parental management of
8 a child's education, and assists in the seamless transition between
9 primary, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary education levels.

10 (2) The office of superintendent of public instruction, with
11 assistance from the higher education coordinating board, shall study
12 and make recommendations to the governor, the house of representatives
13 and senate education and higher education committees, school districts,
14 parent-teacher-student organizations, and other interested parties on
15 parent participation, school-to-home communication, and parental
16 management in the education of children from prekindergarten through
17 higher education. The office of superintendent of public instruction
18 shall:

1 (a) Review methods and best practices in this and other states for
2 facilitating parent participation in education. The review should
3 focus on methods that have been used successfully to increase academic
4 achievement, improve student conduct and attendance, and reduce student
5 drop-out rates in preschool and kindergarten through grade twelve. The
6 review will also include methods and best practices for helping parents
7 understand the postsecondary opportunities available to their children,
8 including recommendations to help families and students become better
9 prepared to take advantage of those opportunities;

10 (b) Consult widely with parent groups and parents of children of
11 different abilities and different backgrounds, including children from
12 rural and urban areas;

13 (c) Review and recommend best practices for assuring effective
14 communication between school directors, school personnel, and parents
15 and propose a system for communicating with parents about issues such
16 as education reform, assessment results, and improved conduct and
17 attendance;

18 (d) Research and recommend successful models for training school
19 personnel in ways to communicate with parents and to use parent skills
20 effectively to improve student learning; and

21 (e) Recommend best practices policies to ensure participation
22 regardless of ability to pay, by parent volunteers and all students in
23 extracurricular school events, including field trips, held during the
24 regular school day.

25 (3) The office of superintendent of public instruction shall submit
26 a final report with its findings and recommendations to the governor
27 and the house of representatives and senate education and higher
28 education committees by December 1, 1998. The office shall also
29 disseminate the results of the study to school directors, school
30 districts, parent groups, and other interested parties.

31 (4) This section expires December 30, 1998.

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