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SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2604

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By House Committee on Appropriations (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 02/09/98. Referred to Committee on .

1 AN ACT Relating to parent participation in education; creating new  
2 sections; 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.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** If specific funding for the purposes of this  
33 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
34 June 30, 1998, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
35 void.

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