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HOUSE BILL 2752

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Haigh, Quall, Stensen, Keiser, Talcott, Fortunato, Lovick, Morris and Ogden

Read first time 01/19/2000. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a small schools pilot project; adding  
2 a new chapter to Title 28A RCW; making an appropriation; and providing  
3 an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that a large and  
6 growing body of research supports the premise that all students learn  
7 more, perform better, and exhibit more responsible and respectful  
8 behavior in schools where they are known personally and as individuals  
9 by the adults in the school.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definition in this section applies  
11 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

12 "Personalized school" means a school with each of the following  
13 characteristics:

14 (1) The school enrolls no more than two hundred seventy-five  
15 students if it is an elementary school, or no more than four hundred  
16 forty students if it is a middle, junior high, or high school with  
17 three or four grade levels;

1 (2) Every teacher at the school works with every student assigned  
2 to his or her classroom for a minimum of two consecutive years;

3 (3) The school develops and implements a plan for high levels of  
4 parental involvement in which parents are directly engaged in  
5 supporting their child's learning and in which parents play a  
6 significant role in school governance;

7 (4) The school develops a governance plan which involves an  
8 administrator, teachers, parents and other community members, and, if  
9 it is a secondary school, the students; and

10 (5) The school develops a philosophy and mission which focuses on  
11 the personalization of learning and academic and personal success for  
12 each student. The school embodies its philosophy and mission in its  
13 daily operations and activities.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A personalized schools research and  
15 development program is established to study the extent to which  
16 personalized schools can result in increased academic and personal  
17 achievement for students in public schools. The program is intended to  
18 determine the capacity of personalized schools to promote higher  
19 academic achievement, as measured by performance on the Washington  
20 assessment of student learning, and personal achievement, as measured  
21 by retention and graduation rates, student behavior, student, parent,  
22 and teacher satisfaction, and other relevant data. The legislature  
23 intends for this pilot program to operate five full school years, to  
24 include evaluation of personalized schools, and to publish and  
25 disseminate the results of the project's research and findings for the  
26 benefit of the entire state.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** (1) The superintendent of public instruction  
28 shall develop a process for school districts to apply for grant funding  
29 to participate in the personalized schools research and development  
30 program. School districts may apply on behalf of existing schools that  
31 intend to meet the program requirements or on behalf of proposed new  
32 schools to be created in order to meet the program requirements. In  
33 order to be eligible to participate in the program, a school must have  
34 its own leadership, staff, and governance, but may share a common  
35 school building with another school in the district. The school-  
36 within-a-school model program and the academic house model program may

1 not be employed by schools participating in the program established by  
2 this chapter.

3 (2) The superintendent shall appoint a selection committee to  
4 review applications and, to the extent funding is provided for this  
5 program, select up to fifty schools to participate from among qualified  
6 applicants. The selection committee shall include one member of the  
7 superintendent's office, two teachers from schools in a district not  
8 applying for a grant under the program, one administrator from a school  
9 district which has not applied for a grant under the program, one  
10 representative from an institution of higher education, and two  
11 additional members.

12 (3) The selection committee shall attempt to select approximately  
13 equal numbers of schools enrolling elementary school students, middle  
14 or junior high school students, and high school students. The  
15 selection committee shall make every possible effort to award grants to  
16 at least nine schools in each of the three categories of school:  
17 Elementary, middle or junior high, and high school. The selection  
18 committee shall also endeavor to balance grants among schools serving  
19 urban, suburban, and rural communities and to achieve geographic  
20 balance in grant awards to include all regions of the state.

21 (4) The selection committee shall determine the grant award  
22 recipients by December 10, 2000, and inform all applicants of its  
23 decisions by December 18, 2000.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** (1) Applications for grants under this  
25 chapter must be submitted to the superintendent by November 1, 2000.

26 (2) Each application on behalf of an existing school must include:

27 (a) A description of how the school currently satisfies all of the  
28 conditions set forth in the definition of a personalized school, as  
29 provided in section 2 of this act, or a description of how the school  
30 plans to satisfy those conditions by September 1, 2001;

31 (b) A statement of the applicant school's understanding of the  
32 value of personalization in education;

33 (c) A letter from the applying school district affirming the  
34 commitment of the board of directors of the district and the district  
35 superintendent to maintain the applicant school as a personalized  
36 school, as defined in section 2 of this act, for the entire five-year  
37 duration of this research and development program, if the school is  
38 selected to receive a grant to participate in the program; and

1 (d) A letter from the applicant school's principal articulating his  
2 or her commitment to the personalized schools research and development  
3 program.

4 (3) Each application on behalf of a proposed school to be created  
5 for purposes of the personalized schools program must include:

6 (a) A description of how the proposed school will satisfy all the  
7 conditions set forth in the definition of a personalized school, as  
8 defined in section 2 of this act;

9 (b) A statement of the understanding of the applicant for the  
10 proposed school regarding the value of personalization in education;

11 (c) A letter from the applying school district affirming the  
12 commitment of the board of directors of the district and the district  
13 superintendent to maintain the proposed school as a personalized  
14 school, as defined in section 2 of this act, for the entire five-year  
15 duration of this research and development program, if the application  
16 for a proposed school is selected to receive a grant to participate in  
17 the program; and

18 (d) A letter from the individual who would become the proposed  
19 school's principal articulating his or her commitment to the  
20 personalized schools research and development program.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** (1) The superintendent shall award start-up  
22 grants for selected schools by January 15, 2001. Subject to available  
23 funding, each personalized school shall receive a thirty-five thousand  
24 dollar start-up grant.

25 (a) Up to fifteen thousand dollars of the start-up grant may be  
26 used for facilities.

27 (b) The remainder of the start-up grant must be expended for needs  
28 directly related to teaching and learning, with a focus on professional  
29 development. This may not include purchase of material or curricula,  
30 unless such materials or curricula are necessary for the conduct of  
31 professional development activities.

32 (2) Subject to available funding, by July 1, 2001, the  
33 superintendent shall award each personalized school a grant of twenty-  
34 five thousand dollars for the first year of operation of the  
35 personalized school. Subject to available funding, by July 1, 2002,  
36 the superintendent shall award each personalized school a grant of  
37 fifteen thousand dollars for the second year of operation of the  
38 personalized school. Subject to available funding, by July 1, 2003,

1 the superintendent shall award each personalized school a grant of  
2 eight thousand dollars for the third year of operation of the  
3 personalized school.

4 (3) Schools selected to participate in the personalized schools  
5 program shall begin planning activities in January 2001 and shall begin  
6 their first year of operation within the personalized school program in  
7 September 2001. Participating schools shall continue to operate as  
8 personalized schools at least through the end of the 2005-06 school  
9 year. All funds awarded for personalized schools under this chapter  
10 must be under the control of the personalized school and may be spent  
11 according to the school's discretion, subject to the requirements of  
12 all other applicable laws.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** (1) The superintendent of public instruction  
14 shall develop an assessment system for personalized schools. The  
15 assessment system must include the Washington assessment of student  
16 learning, information concerning student behavior, data relating to the  
17 perceptions that students, parents, and educators have about  
18 personalized schools, and other information that may be relevant to  
19 determining the effectiveness of personalized schools. Up to thirty  
20 thousand dollars of the appropriation provided for this program in the  
21 2001 fiscal year may be used for development of the assessment system  
22 created pursuant to this section.

23 (2) The superintendent shall designate a program staff member  
24 within the agency to manage the assessment development activities and  
25 to provide technical assistance to personalized schools. Subject to  
26 available funding, the designated staff member shall also organize an  
27 annual institute for representatives of each personalized school to  
28 gain additional professional development and provide opportunities to  
29 learn from the experiences of other personalized schools.

30 (3) The superintendent may require personalized schools to collect  
31 and report information the superintendent deems necessary for an  
32 adequate evaluation of the personalized schools pilot program. The  
33 superintendent shall compile and analyze information on the results and  
34 effectiveness of the personalized school pilot program and report its  
35 findings to the legislature and to the public annually.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** The superintendent may adopt rules necessary  
37 to implement this chapter.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 9.**    If any provision of this act or its  
2 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
3 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
4 persons or circumstances is not affected.

5        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 10.**   Sections 1 through 8 of this act constitute  
6 a new chapter in Title 28A RCW.

7        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 11.**   Sections 1 through 8 of this act expire  
8 December 31, 2006.

9        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 12.**   The sum of one million eight hundred  
10 thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is  
11 appropriated from the general fund to the superintendent of public  
12 instruction for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2001, to carry out the  
13 purposes of this act.

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