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HOUSE BILL 3006

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Quall, Stensen, Scott, Ogden, Kessler, Conway, Keiser, Santos, Kenney and Schual-Berke

Read first time 01/25/2000. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to safe and civil learning environments in schools  
2 and preventing bullying and other threatening, disruptive, or violent  
3 behavior in schools; amending RCW 28A.600.460 and 28A.150.240; adding  
4 a new section to chapter 28A.415 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that a safe and  
7 civil environment in schools is an essential prerequisite for students  
8 to learn and to achieve high academic standards.

9 (2) The legislature further finds that a safe and civil environment  
10 in schools is necessary for students to have the kind of academic  
11 success that will encourage them to become lifelong learners and to  
12 lead productive and satisfying lives.

13 (3) The legislature declares that bullying, taunting, harassment,  
14 intimidation, and other threatening, disruptive, or violent behaviors  
15 are unacceptable in the classrooms, hallways, playgrounds, and other  
16 facilities of the public schools of Washington.

17 (4) The intent of this act is to assist local schools in creating  
18 a culture or climate in every public school that makes all students  
19 feel welcomed, respected, and valued. The school district policies

1 changed or adopted pursuant to this act should, in turn, be intended to  
2 create in every school a culture of recognizing the human dignity of  
3 each and every student. Therefore, the legislature intends to provide  
4 support to school districts for training school staff in strategies  
5 that have been proven effective in creating a school-wide climate that  
6 respects and nurtures all students and that creates safe and civil  
7 environments conducive to learning.

8 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.600.460 and 1997 c 266 s 9 are each amended to  
9 read as follows:

10 (1) School district boards of directors shall adopt policies that  
11 restore discipline to the classroom. Such policies must provide for at  
12 least the following: Allowing each teacher to take disciplinary action  
13 to correct a student who disrupts normal classroom activities, abuses  
14 or insults a teacher as prohibited by RCW 28A.635.010, willfully  
15 disobeys a teacher, uses abusive or foul language directed at a school  
16 district employee, school volunteer, or another student, violates  
17 school rules, or who interferes with an orderly education process.  
18 Disciplinary action may include but is not limited to: Oral or written  
19 reprimands; written notification to parents of disruptive behavior, a  
20 copy of which must be provided to the principal. By July 1, 2001, each  
21 school district shall amend these policies or adopt additional policies  
22 to provide for safe and civil environments free from bullying,  
23 taunting, harassment, intimidation, and other disruptive or threatening  
24 behavior, including the behaviors in subsections (2) and (3) of this  
25 section, which undermines the climate for learning in the school for  
26 all students. The superintendent of public instruction may, at the  
27 request of a school district, provide guidelines or other technical  
28 assistance to help school districts develop effective policies. In  
29 developing any such guidelines, the superintendent of public  
30 instruction shall:

31 (a) Consider available, relevant data, reports, and other  
32 information on the school safety concerns of students, parents, and  
33 school employees. "Relevant data" includes, but is not limited to, the  
34 Washington state survey of adolescent health behaviors and complaints  
35 reported to the office of civil rights in the United States department  
36 of education;

37 (b) Provide a list of programs that have been shown to be effective  
38 in preventing and combating bullying, taunting, harassment,

1 intimidation, and other disruptive or threatening behavior in schools.  
2 The list may include programs such as bullyproofing your school, and  
3 any program that has received a national schools of character award;  
4 and

5 (c) Advise all school districts of the availability of such  
6 guidelines, technical assistance, and lists of effective programs for  
7 preventing and combating bullying, taunting, harassment, intimidation,  
8 and other disruptive or threatening behavior, including the behaviors  
9 in subsections (2) and (3) of this section.

10 (2) A student committing an offense under chapter 9A.36, 9A.40,  
11 9A.46, or 9A.48 RCW when the activity is directed toward the teacher,  
12 shall not be assigned to that teacher's classroom for the duration of  
13 the student's attendance at that school or any other school where the  
14 teacher is assigned.

15 (3) A student who commits an offense under chapter 9A.36, 9A.40,  
16 9A.46, or 9A.48 RCW, when directed toward another student, may be  
17 removed from the classroom of the victim for the duration of the  
18 student's attendance at that school or any other school where the  
19 victim is enrolled. A student who commits an offense under one of the  
20 chapters enumerated in this section against a student or another school  
21 employee, may be expelled or suspended.

22 (4) Nothing in this section is intended to limit the authority of  
23 a school under existing law and rules to expel or suspend a student for  
24 misconduct or criminal behavior.

25 (5) All school districts must collect data on disciplinary actions  
26 taken in each school. The information shall be made available to the  
27 public upon request. This collection of data shall not include  
28 personally identifiable information including, but not limited to, a  
29 student's social security number, name, or address.

30 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.150.240 and 1979 ex.s. c 250 s 5 are each amended  
31 to read as follows:

32 (1) It is the intended purpose of this section to guarantee that  
33 the certificated teaching and administrative staff in each common  
34 school district be held accountable for the proper and efficient  
35 conduct of classroom teaching in their school which will provide  
36 students with the opportunity to achieve those skills which are  
37 generally recognized as requisite to learning.

1 (2) In conformance with the other provisions of Title 28A RCW, it  
2 shall be the responsibility of the certificated teaching and  
3 administrative staff in each common school to:

4 (a) Implement the district's prescribed curriculum and enforce,  
5 within their area of responsibility, the rules and regulations of the  
6 school district, the state superintendent of public instruction, and  
7 the state board of education, taking into due consideration individual  
8 differences among students, and maintain and render appropriate records  
9 and reports pertaining thereto.

10 (b) Maintain good order and discipline in their classrooms at all  
11 times.

12 (c) Hold students to a strict accountability while in school for  
13 any disorderly conduct while under their supervision.

14 (d) Require excuses from the parents, guardians, or custodians of  
15 minor students in all cases of absence, late arrival to school, or  
16 early dismissal.

17 (e) Give careful attention to the maintenance of a healthful  
18 atmosphere in the classroom.

19 (f) Give careful attention to the safety of the student in the  
20 classroom and report any doubtful or unsafe conditions to the building  
21 administrator.

22 (g) Evaluate each student's educational growth and development and  
23 make periodic reports thereon to parents, guardians, or custodians and  
24 to school administrators.

25 Failure to carry out such requirements as set forth in subsection  
26 (2)(a) through (g) above shall constitute sufficient cause for  
27 discharge of any member of such teaching or administrative staff.

28 (3) In order to help certificated instructional and administrative  
29 staff fulfill their responsibilities for meeting the requirements of  
30 this chapter, and in order to implement policies required under RCW  
31 28A.600.460, school districts shall provide such employees with  
32 training in the most effective strategies for implementing district  
33 policies concerning safe and civil environments free from bullying,  
34 taunting, harassment, intimidation, and other threatening behavior that  
35 detracts from a classroom and school-wide climate conducive to learning  
36 for all students.

37 NEW SECTION. Sec. 4. A new section is added to chapter 28A.415  
38 RCW to read as follows:

1 Funds allocated to school districts for implementation of learning  
2 improvement days as provided in the 1999-2001 biennial operating  
3 budget, and learning improvement day rules, or as may be provided in  
4 future budgets or other acts of the legislature, may be used to conduct  
5 training for certificated instructional staff under RCW 28A.150.240 and  
6 28A.600.460 up to a maximum amount equivalent to the allocation for  
7 one-half day of learning improvement day funds.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** The higher education coordinating board  
9 shall review the curricular and instructional practices of teacher and  
10 administrator preparation programs approved by the state board of  
11 education and report to the legislature on how the teacher and  
12 administrator preparation programs are training teachers and  
13 administrators to effectively deal with bullying, taunting, harassment,  
14 intimidation, and other disruptive or threatening behavior by students  
15 in schools and training teachers and administrators to create school-  
16 wide safe and civil environments for all students. The higher  
17 education coordinating board shall submit its report to the education  
18 and higher education committees of the house of representatives and the  
19 senate by September 5, 2001.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If any provision of this act or its  
21 application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the  
22 remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other  
23 persons or circumstances is not affected.

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