

5418

Sponsor(s): Senators McAuliffe, Rasmussen, Patterson and Kohl-Welles; by request of Governor Locke, Superintendent of Public Instruction and Commission on Student Learning

Brief Description: Changing school accountability and assistance provisions.

**SB 5418 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Declares that the accountability system should be based on continuous improvement at all levels of Washington's education system and on a fundamental principle that all students have equitable access to curriculum and instruction that is aligned to the standards.

Finds that the accountability system should rely on local responsibility and leadership. The state's educational system should respect and support local flexibility in the design, financing, and management of schools, including their instructional programs, organization, and structure. Districts and schools should be expected to improve and be evaluated based on their improvement over time. Districts should recognize exceptional progress and work closely with struggling schools. In addition to providing funding, the state should provide technical assistance and expertise where needed.

Finds that the long-range goal is for all public school students to meet the standards established under RCW 28A.630.885. The mid-term goal is that at least eighty percent of all students state-wide meet the standards and achieve the certificate of mastery within a decade after assessments are required to be administered.