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HOUSE BILL 1378

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Santos, Cox, Keiser, Quall, McDermott, Talcott, Simpson, D. Schmidt, Schual-Berke, Lovick, Wood, O'Brien, Kenney, Conway and Jackley

Read first time 01/24/2001. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to parental and community involvement grants;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating a new section;  
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

6 (a) Strong parental and community involvement in schools is of  
7 vital importance to the state's efforts to improve student learning;

8 (b) When parents are involved in schools, student achievement  
9 improves, regardless of factors such as socioeconomic status, ethnic or  
10 racial backgrounds, or the education level of parents;

11 (c) When parents become active partners in their children's  
12 education, grades and test scores increase, attendance and graduation  
13 rates improve, and students complete homework more consistently;

14 (d) In programs that are designed to involve parents in full  
15 partnership with schools, student achievement for disadvantaged  
16 students not only improves, but it can reach levels that are standard  
17 for children from middle-income families, with students who are the  
18 farthest behind making the greatest gains; and

1 (e) When schools and communities work together, both are  
2 strengthened and make gains that outpace those that each could  
3 accomplish on its own.

4 (2) The legislature intends to help parents, schools, and  
5 communities form partnerships to help improve student learning and  
6 strengthen the role of parents and the community in the educational  
7 process.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 (1) The parental and community involvement grant pilot program is  
11 established. The purposes of the program include:

12 (a) Helping parents and educators establish effective two-way  
13 communication;

14 (b) Helping parents and educators devise ways to support each  
15 other's efforts to help children succeed in school;

16 (c) Helping parents, educators, and community members design and  
17 implement school volunteer programs that provide volunteers with an  
18 opportunity to contribute to the educational process in meaningful  
19 ways;

20 (d) Helping parents and educators devise ways to involve parents in  
21 collaborative decision-making and advocacy processes in a child's  
22 education; and

23 (e) Helping schools and communities form partnerships to support  
24 children and their families.

25 (2) The parental and community involvement grant pilot program  
26 shall be administered by the office of the superintendent of public  
27 instruction, with the assistance of an advisory committee that may  
28 include, but need not be limited to interested individuals and  
29 representatives of parents and educational and community organizations.  
30 When selecting schools and school districts for the pilots, the office  
31 shall adhere to the following principles:

32 (a) The application process shall be simple and shall use as its  
33 sole requirement of the applicant a statement of commitment to  
34 participate in the program from a group of parents, community members,  
35 and representatives of the school or school district;

36 (b) Any reporting requirements of the participants shall be as  
37 minimal as feasible and, to the extent possible, shall be designed to

1 permit applicants to provide information in a simple, standardized  
2 format;

3 (c) School and districts selected for participation shall, to the  
4 extent feasible, represent a balance of some of the different  
5 characteristics of the state's public schools, including geography,  
6 student demographics, urban and rural locations, and district or school  
7 size;

8 (d) The office shall give priority to elementary schools; and

9 (e) A local match of thirty percent from an applicant school or  
10 district is encouraged; but the match may be in the form of in-kind  
11 contributions from the school or district or from private sources.

12 (3) One hundred schools or school districts shall be selected to  
13 participate in the pilot program.

14 (4) Grants shall be awarded solely to schools that do not have a  
15 paid coordinator for parent and community involvement and do not have  
16 a program to recruit or coordinate the efforts of parents and community  
17 members.

18 (5) The maximum state grant is eight thousand dollars per school  
19 per year and sixteen thousand dollars per school over the grant period.

20 (6) By September 2003, the office of the superintendent of public  
21 instruction shall report to the governor and the education committees  
22 of the house of representatives and the senate on the results of the  
23 program. The report shall include any recommendations from the office  
24 of the superintendent of public instruction or the participants for the  
25 expansion, continuation, modification, or elimination of the program.

26 (7) This section expires June 30, 2004.

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