
HOUSE BILL 1400

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Romero, Talcott, Quall, Hunt, Keiser, Rockefeller, Linville, Haigh and Schual-Berke

Read first time 01/25/2001. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to cooperating teachers; adding a new section to
2 chapter 28A.410 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that preparing future
5 teachers is critical to the well-being of our state. An essential
6 component of teacher preparation is the opportunity for students in
7 teacher preparation programs to learn from experienced classroom
8 teachers. These cooperating teachers are able to provide advice and
9 counsel based on the many lessons they have learned from their
10 experience in the classroom.

11 The legislature recognizes the importance of actual classroom
12 experience in the training of new teachers, and therefore intends to
13 provide an incentive to exceptional, experienced teachers to guide
14 student teachers' classroom-based student teaching experiences.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) "Cooperating teacher" means a teacher who:

1 (a) Holds a continuing or professional certificate and supervises
2 and mentors a student teacher in a public school;

3 (b) Is an excellent teacher based on the teacher's evaluations
4 pursuant to RCW 28A.405.100;

5 (c) Has at least four school years of teaching experience; and

6 (d) Holds high expectations for students and demonstrates the
7 ability to help students achieve at high levels and meet or exceed any
8 academic standards adopted by the school district and the state.

9 (2) "Student teacher" means a candidate for initial or residency
10 teacher certification who is in a state board of education-approved
11 teacher preparation program in a public or private institution of
12 higher education in Washington, and who is student teaching in a public
13 school.

14 (3) "Student teaching" means a field experience lasting a minimum
15 of approximately a full academic quarter during which the student
16 teacher participates in instructional activities and assumes both part-
17 time and full-time teaching responsibilities under the supervision of
18 the cooperating teacher. Student teaching does not mean field
19 experiences that are limited to opportunities for observation,
20 tutoring, microteaching, extended practicums, and clinical and
21 laboratory experiences that do not fall within the meaning of student
22 teaching.

23 (4) If funding to pay stipends to cooperating teachers is provided
24 in the omnibus appropriations act, the amount of the stipend shall be
25 adjusted to conform with any budget proviso and funding for the
26 stipends shall be provided by the office of the superintendent of
27 public instruction to the school district that employs the cooperating
28 teacher or to the educational service district to which the district
29 belongs, as appropriate. The school district or educational service
30 district shall pay the full amount of the stipend to the cooperating
31 teacher. Any funds provided through the omnibus appropriations act for
32 stipends shall supplement and not supplant stipends and other forms of
33 monetary assistance provided to cooperating teachers during the
34 previous academic year by institutions of higher education with
35 approved teacher preparation programs. The institution of higher
36 education shall use, at a minimum, the base year funding amounts to
37 directly support cooperating teachers. The support may include, in

- 1 combination or separately, higher stipends, material and supplies, and
- 2 tuition assistance or academic scholarships.

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