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SENATE BILL 5337

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators Finkbeiner and Roach

Read first time 01/19/2001. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to opportunity scholarships; and amending RCW  
2 28A.655.050.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.050 and 1999 c 388 s 201 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Each school district board of directors shall:

7 (a) Select the reading standard results on either the 1997 or 1998  
8 fourth grade Washington assessment of student learning as the school  
9 district's initial baseline reading standard. Districts may select the  
10 1997 results only if all of the elementary schools with fourth grade  
11 students administered the assessment;

12 (b) By December 15, 2001, select the mathematics standard results  
13 on the 1998, 1999, or 2000 fourth grade Washington assessment of  
14 student learning as the school district's fourth grade baseline  
15 mathematics standard, using for its baseline a year in which all of the  
16 elementary schools with fourth grade students administered the  
17 assessment;

18 (c) Establish three-year, district-wide goals to increase, by the  
19 end of the 2000-01 school year, the percentage of students who meet or

1 exceed the reading standard, and by the 2003-04 school year, the  
2 percentage of students who meet or exceed the mathematics standard on  
3 the fourth grade Washington assessment of student learning. The three-  
4 year percentage increase goal in each subject may not be less than the  
5 district's total percentage of students who did not meet the baseline  
6 standard in each subject multiplied by twenty-five percent;

7 (d) Specify the annual district-wide percentage improvement  
8 increments to meet the goals; and

9 (e) Direct each elementary school to establish three-year goals for  
10 its fourth grade students, subject to approval by the board. The  
11 aggregate of the elementary school goals must meet or exceed the  
12 district-wide goals established by the board.

13 (2) By December 15, 2001, each school district board of directors  
14 shall:

15 (a) Select the mathematics standard results on the 1998, 1999,  
16 2000, or 2001 seventh grade Washington assessment of student learning  
17 as the school district's seventh grade baseline mathematics standard;

18 (b) Establish a three-year district-wide goal to increase, by the  
19 end of the 2003-04 school year, the percentage of students who meet or  
20 exceed the mathematics standard, on the seventh grade Washington  
21 assessment of student learning. The district shall select for its  
22 baseline a year in which all of the schools with seventh grade students  
23 administered the assessment. The percentage increase goal may not be  
24 less than the district's total percentage of students who did not meet  
25 the baseline standard in mathematics multiplied by twenty-five percent;

26 (c) Specify the annual district-wide percentage improvement  
27 increments necessary to meet the goal; and

28 (d) Direct each middle or junior high school, as appropriate, to  
29 establish a mathematics goal for its seventh grade students, subject to  
30 approval by the board. The aggregate of the middle or junior high  
31 school goals must meet or exceed the district-wide goals established by  
32 the board in each subject.

33 (3) Schools and school districts in which ten or fewer students  
34 are eligible to be assessed in a grade level are not required to  
35 establish numerical improvement goals and performance relative to the  
36 goals.

37 (4)(a) If an elementary school does not meet or exceed the goals  
38 set in this section, upon the request of the student's parent or  
39 guardian the school district must transfer the student to a successful

1 public school within the district that has met the goals or the student  
2 shall be granted an opportunity scholarship, whichever the parent  
3 requests. Within thirty days of the parent's or guardian's request,  
4 the school shall either transfer the student to another public school  
5 within the district that has met the goals or grant the opportunity  
6 scholarship.

7 (b) The amount of the opportunity scholarship shall be four  
8 thousand dollars for tuition at a private school approved under chapter  
9 28A.195 RCW where the student or the student's parent or guardian has  
10 chosen to redeem the scholarship. The opportunity scholarship funds  
11 shall be used towards the cost of tuition at a private school approved  
12 under chapter 28A.195 RCW. Upon parents' request, subsequent  
13 scholarships shall be granted for consecutive school years.

14 (c) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules  
15 under chapter 34.05 RCW to implement this subsection (4).

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