
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1989

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives McDermott, Talcott, Quall, Hunter, Kenney and Rockefeller; by request of Governor Locke)

READ FIRST TIME 03/05/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to the learning assistance program; adding new
2 sections to chapter 28A.165 RCW; and repealing RCW 28A.165.010,
3 28A.165.012, 28A.165.030, 28A.165.040, 28A.165.050, 28A.165.060,
4 28A.165.070, 28A.165.080, and 28A.165.090.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** FINDINGS--INTENT. The legislature finds
7 that many students do not meet the state achievement standards in the
8 basic skills areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. Research
9 indicates that it is possible to close the achievement gap between
10 those assessed as below standard and those assessed as at or above
11 standard by providing students with rigorous academic coursework
12 coupled with effective instructional strategies and additional learning
13 time. Research also indicates that there is a clear pattern between
14 student achievement and socioeconomic status and that many of the
15 students achieving below standard are in schools with high
16 concentrations of poverty. It is the legislature's intent to assist
17 school districts in meeting the needs of underachieving students who
18 must have their achievement accelerated to close the achievement gap
19 and ultimately meet state basic skills standards. It also is the

1 intent of the legislature to align school district and individual
2 school plans to promote comprehensive efforts to improve student
3 performance and close the achievement gap.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** PURPOSE. The learning assistance program
5 requirements in this chapter are designed to: (1) Assist school
6 districts in understanding the nature of their achievement gaps; and
7 (2) guide school districts in providing the most effective and
8 efficient practices in implementation of their program. Further, this
9 chapter provides the means by which a school district becomes eligible
10 for learning assistance program funds.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** DEFINITIONS. Unless the context clearly
12 indicates otherwise the definitions in this section apply throughout
13 this chapter.

14 (1) "Achievement gap" means the disparity in achievement scores
15 among traditionally underachieving groups of students.

16 (2) "Approved program" means a program submitted to and approved by
17 the office of the superintendent of public instruction and conducted
18 pursuant to the plan that addresses the required elements as provided
19 for in this chapter.

20 (3) "Basic skills areas" means reading, writing, and mathematics as
21 well as readiness associated with these skills.

22 (4) "Basic skills assessments" means one or more of the several
23 basic skills assessments administered as part of the state's student
24 assessment system, and assessments in the basic skills areas
25 administered by local school districts.

26 (5) "Participating student" means a student in kindergarten through
27 grade twelve who scores below standard for his or her grade level on
28 basic skills assessments and who is identified in the approved plan to
29 receive services.

30 (6) "Underachieving students" means students with the greatest
31 academic deficits in basic skills as identified by basic skills
32 assessments.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** PROGRAM PLAN. A participating school
34 district shall annually submit by July 1st the district's plan for
35 using learning assistance funds to the office of the superintendent of

1 public instruction for approval. For the 2003-04 school year, school
2 districts must identify the program activities to be implemented from
3 section 5 of this act and are encouraged to implement the elements in
4 subsections (1) through (8) of this section. Beginning in the 2004-05
5 school year, the program plan must identify the program activities to
6 be implemented from section 5 of this act and implement all of the
7 elements in subsections (1) through (8) of this section.

8 Each school district applying for learning assistance program funds
9 shall describe the use of these funds within the district's plan to
10 support underachieving students, and may include individual school
11 improvement plans. The school district plan shall include the
12 following:

13 (1) District and school-level data on reading, writing, and
14 mathematics achievement as reported pursuant to chapter 28A.655 RCW and
15 P.L. 107-110;

16 (2) Processes used for identifying the underachieving students to
17 be served by the program, including the identification of school or
18 program sites providing program activities;

19 (3) How accelerated learning plans are developed and implemented
20 for participating students, including:

21 (a) Achievement goals for the students;

22 (b) Roles of the student, parents, or guardians and teachers in the
23 plan;

24 (c) Communication procedures regarding student accomplishment; and

25 (d) Plan reviews and adjustments processes;

26 (4) How state level and classroom assessments are used to inform
27 instruction;

28 (5) How focused and intentional instructional strategies have been
29 identified and implemented;

30 (6) How highly qualified instructional staff are developed and
31 supported in the program and in participating schools;

32 (7) How other federal, state, district, and school resources are
33 coordinated with school improvement plans and the district's plan to
34 support underachieving students; and

35 (8) How a program evaluation will be conducted to determine
36 direction for the following school year.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. Use of best practices
2 magnifies the opportunities for student success. The following are
3 services and activities that may be supported by the learning
4 assistance program:

5 (1) Extended learning time opportunities occurring:

6 (a) Before or after the regular school day;

7 (b) On Saturday; and

8 (c) Beyond the regular school year;

9 (2) Professional development for certificated and classified staff
10 that focuses on:

11 (a) The needs of a diverse student population;

12 (b) Specific literacy and mathematics content and instructional
13 strategies; and

14 (c) The use of student work to guide effective instruction;

15 (3) Consultant teachers to assist in implementing effective
16 instructional practices by teachers serving participating students;

17 (4) Tutoring support for participating students; and

18 (5) Outreach activities and support for parents of participating
19 students.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. (1) The
21 superintendent of public instruction shall provide a varying level of
22 technical assistance to school districts based on their trends over
23 time in student reading and mathematics achievement.

24 (2) The superintendent shall provide technical assistance that
25 includes an offer of school improvement assistance to school districts
26 for district schools that fail to meet state academic improvement goals
27 for three consecutive years.

28 (3) The superintendent shall offer, and school districts shall
29 accept, school improvement assistance for schools that fail to meet
30 state academic improvement goals for five or more consecutive years.

31 (4) School improvement assistance shall include but need not be
32 limited to an educational audit of schools that meet the criteria in
33 subsections (2) and (3) of this section, and performance agreements
34 between the district and the superintendent of public instruction to
35 implement the recommendations of the audit and of the community the
36 school serves. Each educational audit shall include recommendations

1 for best practices and ways to address identified needs. It shall be
2 presented to the community in a public meeting to seek input on ways to
3 implement the audit and its recommendations.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** FUNDS--ELIGIBILITY--DISTRIBUTION. Each
5 school district that submitted a program plan pursuant to section 4 of
6 this act is eligible, as determined by the superintendent of public
7 instruction, for state funds made available for the purposes of such
8 programs. The superintendent of public instruction shall distribute
9 funds appropriated for the learning assistance program in accordance
10 with the biennial appropriations act. The distribution formula, which
11 is for district allocation purposes only, shall be based on a poverty
12 factor.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** MONITORING. To ensure that school districts
14 are meeting the requirements of an approved program, the superintendent
15 of public instruction shall monitor such programs no less than once
16 every four years. Individual student records shall be maintained at
17 the school district.

18 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** RULES. The superintendent of public
19 instruction shall adopt rules in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW that
20 the superintendent deems necessary to implement this chapter.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** CAPTIONS NOT LAW. Captions used in this
22 act are not any part of the law.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** The following acts or parts of acts are
24 each repealed:

25 (1) RCW 28A.165.010 (Intent) and 1989 c 233 s 1 & 1987 c 478 s 1;

26 (2) RCW 28A.165.012 (Program created) and 1987 c 478 s 2;

27 (3) RCW 28A.165.030 (Definitions) and 1999 c 78 s 1, 1990 c 33 s
28 148, & 1987 c 478 s 3;

29 (4) RCW 28A.165.040 (Application for state funds--Needs
30 assessment--Plan) and 1990 c 33 s 149, 1989 c 233 s 2, & 1987 c 478 s
31 4;

32 (5) RCW 28A.165.050 (Identification of students--Coordination of
33 use of funds) and 1987 c 478 s 5;

1 (6) RCW 28A.165.060 (Services or activities under program) and 1989
2 c 233 s 3 & 1987 c 478 s 6;

3 (7) RCW 28A.165.070 (Eligibility for funds--Distribution of funds--
4 Development of allocation formula) and 1995 1st sp.s. c 13 s 1, 1993
5 sp.s. c 24 s 520, 1990 c 33 s 150, & 1987 c 478 s 7;

6 (8) RCW 28A.165.080 (Monitoring) and 1990 c 33 s 151 & 1987 c 478
7 s 8; and

8 (9) RCW 28A.165.090 (Rules) and 1990 c 33 s 152 & 1987 c 478 s 9.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act are each
10 added to chapter 28A.165 RCW.

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