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SENATE BILL 5141

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Senators Carlson, Eide and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/15/2003. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to school improvement goals reporting; and amending  
2            RCW 28A.655.030.

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

4            **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.030 and 2002 c 37 s 1 are each amended to read  
5            as follows:

6            The powers and duties of the academic achievement and  
7            accountability commission shall include, but are not limited to the  
8            following:

9            (1) For purposes of statewide accountability, the commission shall:

10            (a) Adopt and revise performance improvement goals in reading,  
11            writing, science, and mathematics by subject and grade level as the  
12            commission deems appropriate to improve student learning, once  
13            assessments in these subjects are required statewide. The goals shall  
14            be consistent with student privacy protection provisions of RCW  
15            28A.655.090(7) and shall not conflict with requirements contained in  
16            Title I of the federal elementary and secondary education act of 1965,  
17            as amended. The goals may be established for all students,  
18            economically disadvantaged students, limited English proficient  
19            students, students with disabilities, and students from

1 disproportionately academically underachieving racial and ethnic  
2 backgrounds. If a student does not take the assessment, then the lack  
3 of the student's score must not count against the school or the school  
4 district when determining whether the school or district has met the  
5 performance goals. The commission may establish school and school  
6 district goals addressing high school graduation rates and dropout  
7 reduction goals for students in grades seven through twelve. (~~The~~  
8 ~~goals shall be in addition to any goals adopted in RCW 28A.655.050.~~  
9 ~~The commission may also revise any goal adopted in RCW 28A.655.050.~~)  
10 The commission shall adopt the goals by rule. However, before each  
11 goal is implemented, the commission shall present the goal to the  
12 education committees of the house of representatives and the senate for  
13 the committees' review and comment in a time frame that will permit the  
14 legislature to take statutory action on the goal if such action is  
15 deemed warranted by the legislature;

16 (b) Identify the scores students must achieve in order to meet the  
17 standard on the Washington assessment of student learning and determine  
18 student scores that identify levels of student performance below and  
19 beyond the standard. The commission shall set such performance  
20 standards and levels in consultation with the superintendent of public  
21 instruction and after consideration of any recommendations that may be  
22 developed by any advisory committees that may be established for this  
23 purpose;

24 (c) Adopt objective, systematic criteria to identify successful  
25 schools and school districts and recommend to the superintendent of  
26 public instruction schools and districts to be recognized for two types  
27 of accomplishments, student achievement and improvements in student  
28 achievement. Recognition for improvements in student achievement shall  
29 include consideration of one or more of the following accomplishments:

30 (i) An increase in the percent of students meeting standards. The  
31 level of achievement required for recognition may be based on the  
32 achievement goals established by the (~~legislature under RCW~~  
33 ~~28A.655.050 and the~~) commission under (a) of this subsection;

34 (ii) Positive progress on an improvement index that measures  
35 improvement in all levels of the assessment; and

36 (iii) Improvements despite challenges such as high levels of  
37 mobility, poverty, English as a second language learners, and large

1 numbers of students in special populations as measured by either the  
2 percent of students meeting the standard, or the improvement index.

3 When determining the baseline year or years for recognizing  
4 individual schools, the commission may use the assessment results from  
5 the initial years the assessments were administered, if doing so with  
6 individual schools would be appropriate;

7 (d) Adopt objective, systematic criteria to identify schools and  
8 school districts in need of assistance and those in which significant  
9 numbers of students persistently fail to meet state standards. In its  
10 deliberations, the commission shall consider the use of all statewide  
11 mandated criterion-referenced and norm-referenced standardized tests;

12 (e) Identify schools and school districts in which state  
13 intervention measures will be needed and a range of appropriate  
14 intervention strategies, beginning no earlier than June 30, 2001, and  
15 after the legislature has authorized a set of intervention strategies.  
16 Beginning no earlier than June 30, 2001, and after the legislature has  
17 authorized a set of intervention strategies, at the request of the  
18 commission, the superintendent shall intervene in the school or school  
19 district and take corrective actions. This chapter does not provide  
20 additional authority for the commission or the superintendent of public  
21 instruction to intervene in a school or school district;

22 (f) Identify performance incentive systems that have improved or  
23 have the potential to improve student achievement;

24 (g) Annually review the assessment reporting system to ensure  
25 fairness, accuracy, timeliness, and equity of opportunity, especially  
26 with regard to schools with special circumstances and unique  
27 populations of students, and a recommendation to the superintendent of  
28 public instruction of any improvements needed to the system;

29 (h) Annually report by December 1st to the legislature, the  
30 governor, the superintendent of public instruction, and the state board  
31 of education on the progress, findings, and recommendations of the  
32 commission. The report may include recommendations of actions to help  
33 improve student achievement;

34 (i) By December 1, 2000, and by December 1st annually thereafter,  
35 report to the education committees of the house of representatives and  
36 the senate on the progress that has been made in achieving the reading  
37 goal under RCW 28A.655.050 and any additional goals adopted by the  
38 commission;

1           (j) Coordinate its activities with the state board of education and  
2 the office of the superintendent of public instruction;  
3           (k) Seek advice from the public and all interested educational  
4 organizations in the conduct of its work; and  
5           (1) Establish advisory committees, which may include persons who  
6 are not members of the commission;  
7           (2) Holding meetings and public hearings, which may include  
8 regional meetings and hearings;  
9           (3) Hiring necessary staff and determining the staff's duties and  
10 compensation. However, the office of the superintendent of public  
11 instruction shall provide staff support to the commission until the  
12 commission has hired its own staff, and shall provide most of the  
13 technical assistance and logistical support needed by the commission  
14 thereafter. The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
15 shall be the fiscal agent for the commission. The commission may  
16 direct the office of the superintendent of public instruction to enter  
17 into subcontracts, within the commission's resources, with school  
18 districts, teachers, higher education faculty, state agencies, business  
19 organizations, and other individuals and organizations to assist the  
20 commission in its deliberations; and  
21           (4) Receiving per diem and travel allowances as permitted under RCW  
22 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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