
HOUSE BILL 1633

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Talcott, Hunter, Priest, Anderson, Tom, Haigh, Curtis, Buri, McDonald, Serben, Nixon, Quall, Cox, Schual-Berke, Rodne, Shabro, Hinkle, Alexander, Woods, Miloscia, Haler, Armstrong, Holmquist, Skinner and Clibborn

Read first time 01/31/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to digital learning programs; adding a new section
2 to chapter 28A.150 RCW; providing an effective date; and declaring an
3 emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that digital learning programs can
8 provide students with opportunities to study subjects that may not
9 otherwise be available within the students' schools, school districts,
10 or communities. These programs can also meet the instructional needs
11 of students who have scheduling conflicts, students who learn best from
12 technology-based instructional methods, and students who have a need to
13 enroll in schools on a part-time basis. Digital learning programs can
14 also meet the needs of students and families seeking nontraditional
15 learning environments. The legislature further finds that the state
16 rules used by some school districts to support digital learning
17 programs were adopted before these types of programs were created, so
18 the rules are not well-suited to the delivery of instruction offered
19 outside classroom walls. In some cases, school districts have received

1 audit exceptions in their attempts to offer digital instruction under
2 rules designed primarily for instruction that is delivered on-site. It
3 is the intent of the legislature to clarify the requirements for
4 digital learning programs and to give school districts and the auditors
5 a common set of guidelines for their delivery and funding.

6 (2) The board of directors of a school district may operate digital
7 learning programs for eligible full-time students, or eligible part-
8 time students who meet the provisions of RCW 28A.150.350. The board of
9 directors may also provide such programs through contract to the extent
10 permitted under RCW 28A.150.305. The board of directors of a school
11 district claiming state funding for digital learning programs shall
12 adopt and periodically review written policies for such programs.

13 (3) Digital learning programs must provide each student with:

14 (a) Direct personal contact with certificated staff designated by
15 either the school district or by the contractor with the approval of
16 the school district. Direct personal contact is for the purposes of
17 instruction, assignment review, testing, evaluation of student
18 progress, or other learning activities. Direct personal contact may
19 include the use of telephone, e-mail, instant messaging, interactive
20 computer, or interactive video communication;

21 (b) A description of course objectives monitored by certificated
22 staff, including information on the requirements a student must meet to
23 successfully complete the course; and

24 (c) Information on the ways the course meets the school district's
25 learning goals and, for high school courses, whether and how the course
26 meets state and district graduation requirements.

27 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
28 adopt rules for the implementation of this section, including program
29 implementation standards and enrollment documentation and reporting as
30 follows:

31 (a) Each school district shall receive apportionment generated in
32 accordance with this chapter based upon the student full-time
33 equivalent enrollment reported for this program;

34 (b) Enrollment shall be determined based upon the learning
35 activities specified in course objectives; and

36 (c) Enrollment of part-time students shall be subject to the
37 provisions of RCW 28A.150.350, and shall generate the pro rata share of
38 full-time funding.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 July 1, 2005.

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