
HOUSE BILL 1708

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Lovick, Quall, Dickerson, Cox, Haigh, Kenney, McDermott, O'Brien, Sells, B. Sullivan, Appleton, Simpson, Kagi, Darneille, Morrell, Green, P. Sullivan, Ormsby, McCoy, Chase and Moeller

Read first time 02/02/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to dropout prevention; amending RCW 28A.175.010 and
2 28A.655.030; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.175 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.175
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall review and
7 evaluate promising programs for dropout prevention. The superintendent
8 may consult with education administrators and providers, parents,
9 students, and researchers as appropriate, and shall include in the
10 review dropout prevention programs using nonpunitive approaches to
11 school discipline. The superintendent shall report to the legislature
12 by December 1, 2005, and recommend:

13 (a) The two most promising comprehensive dropout prevention
14 programs that encompass school-wide or district-wide restructuring of
15 the delivery of educational services; and

16 (b) The two most promising targeted dropout prevention programs
17 designed to provide social and other services in coordination with
18 educational services to students who are at risk of dropping out due to
19 the presence of family, personal, economic, or cultural circumstances.

1 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall establish school
2 and school district goals addressing high school graduation rates and
3 dropout reduction goals for students in grades seven through twelve.
4 Goals under this section shall require annual uniform incremental
5 growth in graduation rates from all schools and districts beginning in
6 the 2005-06 school year and shall meet or exceed the high school
7 graduation rate requirements under the federal no child left behind act
8 of 2001.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.175.010 and 1991 c 235 s 4 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 Each school district shall account for the educational progress of
12 each of its students. To achieve this, school districts shall be
13 required to report annually to the superintendent of public
14 instruction:

15 (1) For students enrolled in each of a school district's high
16 school programs:

17 (a) The number of students eligible for graduation in fewer than
18 four years;

19 (b) The number of students who graduate in four years;

20 (c) The number of students who remain in school for more than four
21 years but who eventually graduate and the number of students who remain
22 in school for more than four years but do not graduate;

23 (d) The number of students who transfer to other schools;

24 (e) The number of students who enter from other schools;

25 (f) The number of students in the ninth through twelfth grade who
26 drop out of school over a four-year period; and

27 (g) The number of students whose status is unknown.

28 (2) Dropout rates of students in each of the grades (~~nine~~) seven
29 through twelve.

30 (3) Dropout rates for student populations in each of the grades
31 (~~nine~~) seven through twelve by:

32 (a) Ethnicity;

33 (b) Gender;

34 (c) Socioeconomic status; and

35 (d) Disability status.

36 (4) The causes or reasons, or both, attributed to students for
37 having dropped out of school in grades (~~nine~~) seven through twelve.

1 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules
2 under chapter 34.05 RCW to assure uniformity in the information
3 districts are required to report under subsections (1) through (4) of
4 this section. In developing rules, the superintendent of public
5 instruction shall consult with school districts, including
6 administrative and counseling personnel, with regard to the methods
7 through which information is to be collected and reported.

8 (6) In reporting on the causes or reasons, or both, attributed to
9 students for having dropped out of school, school building officials
10 shall, to the extent reasonably practical, obtain such information
11 directly from students. In lieu of obtaining such information directly
12 from students, building principals and counselors shall identify the
13 causes or reasons, or both, based on their professional judgment.

14 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall report annually
15 to the legislature the information collected under subsections (1)
16 through (4) of this section.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.655.030 and 2004 c 19 s 205 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 The powers and duties of the academic achievement and
20 accountability commission shall include, but are not limited to the
21 following:

22 (1) For purposes of statewide accountability, the commission shall:
23 (a) Adopt and revise performance improvement goals in reading,
24 writing, science, and mathematics by subject and grade level as the
25 commission deems appropriate to improve student learning, once
26 assessments in these subjects are required statewide. The goals shall
27 be consistent with student privacy protection provisions of RCW
28 28A.655.090(7) and shall not conflict with requirements contained in
29 Title I of the federal elementary and secondary education act of 1965,
30 as amended. The goals may be established for all students,
31 economically disadvantaged students, limited English proficient
32 students, students with disabilities, and students from
33 disproportionately academically underachieving racial and ethnic
34 backgrounds. (~~The commission may establish school and school district
35 goals addressing high school graduation rates and dropout reduction
36 goals for students in grades seven through twelve. The commission
37 shall adopt the goals by rule.~~) However, before each goal is

1 implemented, the commission shall present the goal to the education
2 committees of the house of representatives and the senate for the
3 committees' review and comment in a time frame that will permit the
4 legislature to take statutory action on the goal if such action is
5 deemed warranted by the legislature;

6 (b) Identify the scores students must achieve in order to meet the
7 standard on the Washington assessment of student learning and, for high
8 school students, to obtain a certificate of academic achievement. The
9 commission shall also determine student scores that identify levels of
10 student performance below and beyond the standard. The commission
11 shall consider the incorporation of the standard error of measurement
12 into the decision regarding the award of the certificates. The
13 commission shall set such performance standards and levels in
14 consultation with the superintendent of public instruction and after
15 consideration of any recommendations that may be developed by any
16 advisory committees that may be established for this purpose. The
17 initial performance standards and any changes recommended by the
18 commission in the performance standards for the tenth grade assessment
19 shall be presented to the education committees of the house of
20 representatives and the senate by November 30th of the school year in
21 which the changes will take place to permit the legislature to take
22 statutory action before the changes are implemented if such action is
23 deemed warranted by the legislature. The legislature shall be advised
24 of the initial performance standards and any changes made to the
25 elementary level performance standards and the middle school level
26 performance standards;

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

33 (i) An increase in the percent of students meeting standards. The
34 level of achievement required for recognition may be based on the
35 achievement goals established by the legislature and by the commission
36 under (a) of this subsection;

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

1 (iii) Improvements despite challenges such as high levels of
2 mobility, poverty, English as a second language learners, and large
3 numbers of students in special populations as measured by either the
4 percent of students meeting the standard, or the improvement index.

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (i) By December 1, 2000, and by December 1st annually thereafter,
37 report to the education committees of the house of representatives and

1 the senate on the progress that has been made in achieving goals
2 adopted by the commission;

3 (j) Coordinate its activities with the state board of education and
4 the office of the superintendent of public instruction;

5 (k) Seek advice from the public and all interested educational
6 organizations in the conduct of its work; and

7 (1) Establish advisory committees, which may include persons who
8 are not members of the commission;

9 (2) Holding meetings and public hearings, which may include
10 regional meetings and hearings;

11 (3) Hiring necessary staff and determining the staff's duties and
12 compensation. However, the office of the superintendent of public
13 instruction shall provide staff support to the commission until the
14 commission has hired its own staff, and shall provide most of the
15 technical assistance and logistical support needed by the commission
16 thereafter. The office of the superintendent of public instruction
17 shall be the fiscal agent for the commission. The commission may
18 direct the office of the superintendent of public instruction to enter
19 into subcontracts, within the commission's resources, with school
20 districts, teachers, higher education faculty, state agencies, business
21 organizations, and other individuals and organizations to assist the
22 commission in its deliberations; and

23 (4) Receiving per diem and travel allowances as permitted under RCW
24 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

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