
HOUSE BILL 1920

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives McDermott and Chase

Read first time 02/10/2005. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to education for children who are deaf and hard of
2 hearing; adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW; and creating a
3 new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the quality of
6 education and achievement expectations for children who are deaf or
7 hard of hearing should be equivalent to those for children throughout
8 the state. The legislature also finds that no single educational
9 approach or form of education can meet the needs of all children in the
10 state who are deaf or hard of hearing. The legislature further finds
11 that children who are deaf or hard of hearing must have their education
12 provided in the least restrictive environment. In addition, services
13 provided to children who are deaf or hard of hearing should be
14 continuously guided by current research and should span the spectrum of
15 options available to families, respecting those families' choices and
16 recognizing that changes may occur. Finally, the legislature finds
17 that unbiased and comprehensive information about the spectrum of
18 communication and educational options available to children who are
19 deaf or hard of hearing should be provided to families upon enrollment

1 in the prekindergarten through twelfth grade education system and upon
2 the start of the individualized education plan transition services
3 provided at age fourteen, to support informed choices at each of these
4 critical decision-making points.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
6 RCW to read as follows:

7 (1) By September 1, 2007, each school district shall be prepared to
8 offer a spectrum of services, including sign language-based and oral-
9 based programming, for students who are deaf or hard of hearing. The
10 services shall correspond to the educational approach selected for each
11 child by the child's parents or guardian. The school district may
12 contract with outside entities to provide the services.

13 (2) A professional with expertise in hearing impairment must be
14 included in any team that helps prepare an individualized education
15 plan for a child who is deaf or hard of hearing.

16 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide to
17 school districts information on advances in research, technology, and
18 educational approaches for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

19 (4) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide
20 professional development to educational professionals throughout the
21 state on the educational needs of children who are deaf or hard of
22 hearing.

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