
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1951

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Quall, Talcott, Haler, Morrell, Campbell, O'Brien, Hankins, Kagi and McDermott)

READ FIRST TIME 03/07/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to vision exams for school-aged children; adding a
2 new section to chapter 28A.210 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

5 (1) Vision is one of the primary senses used in the early learning
6 process;

7 (2) Vision problems affecting preschool and school-age children can
8 impact a child's ability to learn;

9 (3) Economically disadvantaged children have less access to health
10 care and therefore, may have a proportionally greater likelihood of
11 having undiagnosed vision problems that may affect their ability to
12 learn;

13 (4) Vision problems in young children can be misinterpreted as
14 neurodevelopmental delay or as learning disabilities; and

15 (5) Current screening for visual acuity at distance is insufficient
16 to detect all vision defects.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.210
18 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) For a child who is diagnosed with a learning disability after
2 September 1, 2006, a parent or guardian shall provide to school health
3 personnel proof that the child has received a comprehensive eye
4 examination performed by a licensed optometrist or ophthalmologist
5 chosen by the child's parent or guardian. Consideration should be
6 given to testing binocular vision, accommodation, and convergence.
7 Proof of a comprehensive eye examination having been performed within
8 the previous twelve months of the diagnosis of a learning disability is
9 sufficient under this section.

10 (2) Schools and school districts shall inform parents of the eye
11 examination required under this section and shall, to the extent
12 practical, assist parents of children who do not have access to
13 adequate insurance coverage by providing information regarding
14 resources for eye examinations.

15 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall collect and
16 disseminate to school districts information regarding resources for
17 low-cost or no-cost comprehensive eye examinations, including contact
18 information for the optometric physicians of Washington and the
19 Washington academy of eye physicians and surgeons.

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