
HOUSE BILL 2581

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Representatives Upthegrove, Appleton, Hasegawa, Pettigrew, Quall, Haler, Simpson, Hunt, Lantz, Dickerson, Ormsby, Kilmer, Kenney and Conway

Read first time 01/10/2006. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing parent and community involvement
2 efforts within diverse communities; adding a new section to chapter
3 28A.300 RCW; creating a new section; and making an appropriation.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that language and
6 cultural differences, as well as economic hardship, can create barriers
7 to effective parental involvement in the schools for some families.
8 Some schools and school districts are taking innovative steps to
9 successfully reach out and include the parents of immigrant students,
10 students of color, and low-income students in the life of the school.
11 Some schools and school districts are also working hard to involve
12 community organizations that are reflective of their diverse student
13 bodies in the life of the school as a way to create an educational
14 environment that maximizes student learning. It is the legislature's
15 intent to dedicate new funding to support and replicate successful
16 parent and community involvement models within diverse student
17 populations.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall administer a
4 competitive grant program designed to increase parent and community
5 involvement efforts within diverse communities.

6 (2) Schools or school districts may submit an application to the
7 office of the superintendent of public instruction to receive a grant
8 under this section. No more than three proposals may be submitted from
9 a single school district.

10 (3) The superintendent shall convene an application review
11 committee that includes school personnel, parents, community-based
12 organizations, refugees and immigrants, persons representing different
13 regions of the state, and persons with expertise in cultural
14 competency. The review committee shall consider such factors as need
15 as indicated by student poverty and test scores, demonstration of
16 previous strengths in parent and community involvement, parent
17 involvement in decision making, cultural relevancy, and program
18 outcomes based on quantitative and qualitative evidence.

19 (4) Grants shall be awarded for a one-year period, but recipients
20 may apply for a renewal of the grant for a second year. The
21 superintendent shall award no more than ten grants per year. The
22 amount of a grant may range from twenty-five to fifty thousand dollars.

23 (5) The objectives of a program funded under this section are to
24 increase school or school district capacity to work with diverse
25 families and increase parent leadership and parenting skills. Grant
26 recipients shall allocate their grant funds evenly between these two
27 objectives.

28 (a) To increase capacity, grant recipients should collaborate with
29 community organizations to develop cultural competency skills through
30 professional development training; establish a welcoming, reflective,
31 and accessible school climate; create plans for community conversations
32 between school administration and the target population; and assess
33 current parent and community involvement efforts for relevancy,
34 success, and sustainability.

35 (b) To increase parent leadership and parenting skills, grant
36 recipients should collaborate with community organizations to provide
37 nontraditional pathways for engagement in schools; develop parent

1 leadership and parenting skills in culturally appropriate and
2 respectful ways; and recognize and use the inherent strengths of
3 parents.

4 (6) Grant recipients shall submit a report at the end of the year
5 to the office of the superintendent of public instruction with
6 quantitative and qualitative data that demonstrate increased
7 participation of families in schools and institutional change in the
8 schools as a result of the program. The report shall also include a
9 summary of the program, best practices, challenges, and benefits. The
10 superintendent shall make the reports available to other interested
11 schools and districts.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of five hundred thousand dollars, or
13 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal
14 year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the superintendent
15 of public instruction for the purposes of this act.

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