
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4411

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives McCoy and Santos

Read first time 04/14/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 WHEREAS, The legislature finds that the primary goal underlying
2 state and federal academic accountability systems is to ensure all
3 children are provided with an equal opportunity to obtain a high-
4 quality education; and

5 WHEREAS, The legislature also finds that federal accountability
6 under the no child left behind act of 2001 is measured by adequate
7 yearly progress toward specified goals as demonstrated by the number of
8 students who meet or exceed the standard on the Washington assessment
9 of student learning; and

10 WHEREAS, The legislature further finds that failure to make
11 adequate yearly progress is most apparent with students of color and
12 students from low-income households; and

13 WHEREAS, The legislature finds that the academic achievement gap is
14 the result of many factors, including poverty, educational opportunity
15 of parents, recent immigration, family mobility, societal and
16 institutional bias, and the fact that English is not the primary
17 language in many homes; and

18 WHEREAS, The legislature finds that in order to close the
19 achievement gap, the educational system will need to change how it

1 approaches learning and teaching through a greater understanding of the
2 impact of language, culture, race, and poverty on student achievement;
3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives of
4 the State of Washington, the Senate concurring, That a joint select
5 committee on equitable opportunity for all is created, consisting of
6 two members of each major caucus of the Senate, representing the
7 committees on early learning, K-12 and higher education and on human
8 services and corrections, appointed by the president of the Senate; and
9 two members of each major caucus of the House of Representatives,
10 representing the committees on education and on juvenile justice and
11 family law, appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That every effort shall be made to ensure
14 that members of the joint select committee are appointed promptly; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall
16 consult with the communities of color stakeholders, the multiethnic
17 think tank, the special education coalition, and the Washington state
18 association on multicultural education, and may form one or more
19 advisory committees that may include, but need not be limited to,
20 representation from the Washington state commissions on African-
21 American affairs, Asian Pacific American affairs, and Hispanic affairs,
22 and the governor's office of Indian affairs; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall determine what
24 efforts, if any, currently exist to implement the following action
25 steps:

26 (1) Add a fifth Washington learning goal to ensure culturally
27 competent education;

28 (2) Infuse multicultural education goals into the existing four
29 Washington state learning goals;

30 (3) Integrate multicultural and technological learning objectives
31 in the Washington state essential academic learning requirements;

32 (4) Standardize the data collection, categorization, and reporting
33 of all ethnic groups, including the disaggregation of data sets into
34 discrete ethnic populations that provide the most accurate information
35 about student achievement;

36 (5) Recruit and retain racial and ethnic minority staff and
37 administration; and

1 (6) Require that professional development is culturally and
2 linguistically responsive for all staff, administration, and others;
3 and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall report its
5 findings, by September 1, 2006, to the Senate committee on early
6 learning, K-12 and higher education, and the House of Representatives
7 committee on education and that the report shall include a
8 determination of the actions and resources necessary to complete the
9 action steps in this resolution, including whether existing basic
10 education moneys can be used and the amount of additional funding
11 needed; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee may make recommendations
13 regarding the action steps and may develop other recommendations that
14 support and elucidate the functionality of multicultural education and
15 cultural competency in meeting the goals of education; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the report shall include a reasonable
17 time frame for implementation that is prioritized based on existing
18 efforts and the resources necessary for full implementation; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall
20 receive staffing support from Senate committee services and the office
21 of program research; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That legislative members of the joint
23 select committee shall receive per diem and travel under RCW 44.04.120.

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