
SENATE BILL 5854

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Schmidt, Kohl-Welles and Shin; by request of State Board of Education

Read first time 02/10/2005. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to educational equity; and adding new sections to
2 chapter 28A.150 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.150
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds the following:

7 (a) Educational equity is integral to Article IX of the state
8 Constitution ratified October 1, 1889, which states:

9 (i) "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision
10 for the education of all children residing within its borders, without
11 distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex."

12 (ii) "The legislature shall provide for a general and uniform
13 system of public schools."

14 (b) Educational equity is an approach to all aspects of education
15 that promotes and provides equitable support for all students to create
16 the best learning opportunities for each student.

17 (c) Educational equity is evident when all children in a school
18 receive the nurturing, guidance, and resources they need to reach their
19 fullest potential to achieve success in school and life.

1 (d) Educational equity, properly implemented, will ensure that the
2 unique needs and learning opportunities of each student and student
3 group are served and that achievement disproportionality is reduced by
4 increasing and supporting the conditions for best student performance.

5 (e) Educational equity attends to the state shift from a classroom
6 seat time-based system of education to a standards and performance-
7 based education system where time, scheduling, and access are more
8 flexible and conducive to a more equitable educational system in order
9 to make the learning journey for each student more personal and
10 relevant.

11 (f) Educational equity is a viewpoint and belief through which
12 disproportionality can be significantly reduced when, in combination
13 with research-based and other strategies and planning for student
14 needs, student opportunities to learn occur on an academic calendar
15 year where allocated time and timely, coordinated supplemental learning
16 opportunities are balanced for continuous student success.

17 (g) Educational equity should respond to the fact that home
18 resources and community support may be more limited for some students
19 than others.

20 (h) Educational equity embodies the essence of diversity, which is
21 the breadth of difference that is the common character of society,
22 including the unique nature of each student.

23 (2) Building on the findings under subsection (1) of this section,
24 the following state policy on educational equity is established:

25 (a) Educational equity includes instruction that responds to the
26 diverse needs of students in order to maximize each student's
27 opportunity to reach his or her fullest potential to achieve success in
28 school and life as expressed in the goal of basic education under RCW
29 28A.150.210.

30 (b) Educational equity results in continuous student growth.
31 Learning and achievement is founded on meaningful relationships among
32 students, staff, parents, guardians, and community members so that each
33 student is nurtured, respected, and valued in school and through
34 school-related learning opportunities.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
36 RCW to read as follows:

37 (1) The legislature recognizes a clear role for at least and not

1 limited to the following agencies to advance the state policy on
2 educational equity under section 1 of this act: The state board of
3 education and the superintendent of public instruction. The
4 legislature encourages these agencies to collaboratively, not
5 independently, establish and align potential goals, objectives, and
6 strategies in order to advance the state policy on educational equity
7 under section 1 of this act.

8 (2) The agencies in subsection (1) of this section, in their
9 respective efforts and in any partnership efforts to advance the state
10 policy on educational equity, shall make continuous effort to secure
11 the diverse representation or participation of students, staff, and
12 community members in reviewing existing state policies and requirements
13 that directly or indirectly impact educational equity.

14 (3) The state board of education and the superintendent of public
15 instruction are authorized to adopt rules to implement the state policy
16 on educational equity.

17 (4) The agencies in subsection (1) of this section are encouraged,
18 but not required, to periodically, preferably at least every two years,
19 submit separately or jointly, a report to one another and the
20 legislature. The report shall include a review and status of adopted
21 educational equity goals, objectives, and strategies to advance the
22 state policy on educational equity.

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