
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5983

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education
(originally sponsored by Senators Pflug, Schmidt, Esser, Delvin and Benson)

READ FIRST TIME 03/02/05.

1 AN ACT Relating to professional certification of teachers; amending
2 RCW 28A.410.210 and 28A.305.130; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the importance of
5 ongoing professional development and growth for teachers with the goal
6 of improving student achievement. It is the intent of the legislature
7 to ensure that professional certification is administered in such a way
8 as to ensure that the professional development and growth of individual
9 teachers is directly aligned to their current and future teaching
10 responsibilities as professional educators.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.410.210 and 2000 c 39 s 103 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 The Washington professional educator standards board shall:

14 (1) Serve as an advisory body to the superintendent of public
15 instruction and as the sole advisory body to the state board of
16 education on issues related to educator recruitment, hiring,
17 preparation, certification including high quality alternative routes to
18 certification, mentoring and support, professional growth, retention,

1 governance, prospective teacher pedagogy assessment, prospective
2 principal assessment, educator evaluation including but not limited to
3 peer evaluation, and revocation and suspension of licensure;

4 (2) Adopt rules to provide for the approval and disapproval of
5 programs leading to the professional certification of teachers. The
6 rules shall be written to allow the maximum program choice for
7 applicants and shall promote maximum efficiency for applicants in
8 attaining professional certification. All current and future programs
9 must comply with these rules and must receive initial approval based on
10 these rules. The rules shall:

11 (a) Not require professional certification for any certificated
12 teacher before the 2008-09 school year, not require professional
13 certification before the fifth year following the receipt of a
14 continuing employment contract for any individual teacher, not require
15 any teacher with national board certification to earn professional
16 certification, and allow any teacher currently enrolled in or
17 participating in a program leading to professional certification to
18 continue the program under administrative rules in place when the
19 teacher began the program;

20 (b) Provide criteria for the approval and disapproval of accredited
21 institutions of higher education within the state to offer a program
22 leading to professional certification. The rules shall be written to
23 encourage institutions of higher education to partner with local school
24 districts, consortia of school districts, or educational service
25 districts, as appropriate, to provide instruction for teachers seeking
26 professional certification;

27 (c) Encourage institutions of higher education to offer
28 professional certificate coursework as continuing education credit
29 hours. This shall not prevent an institution of higher education from
30 providing the option of including the professional certification
31 requirements as part of a master's degree program;

32 (d) Provide criteria for a liaison relationship between approved
33 programs and school districts in which applicants are employed;

34 (e) Identify a process for out-of-state certificated teachers not
35 yet certificated in Washington who have graduated from an accredited
36 institution of higher education and who hold a valid out-of-state
37 certificate to be granted reciprocity with a professional certificate.
38 The board shall consider in its process to grant reciprocity any

1 additional coursework or assessments needed by out-of-state teachers to
2 demonstrate skills commensurate with Washington requirements for
3 professional certification; and

4 (f) Identify an evaluation process of approved programs that
5 includes a review of the program coursework and applicant coursework
6 load requirements, linkages of programs to individual teacher
7 professional growth plans, linkages to school district and school
8 improvement plans, and, to the extent possible, linkages to school
9 district professional enrichment and growth programs for teachers,
10 where such programs are in place in school districts. The board shall
11 identify:

12 (i) A process for awarding conditional approval of a program that
13 shall include annual evaluations of the program until the program is
14 awarded full approval;

15 (ii) A three-year evaluation cycle once a program receives full
16 approval;

17 (iii) A method for investigating programs that have received
18 numerous complaints from students enrolled in the program and from
19 those recently completing the program; and

20 (iv) A method for using program completer satisfaction responses in
21 making the evaluation;

22 (3) Submit annual reports and recommendations, beginning December
23 1, 2000, to the governor, the education and fiscal committees of the
24 legislature, the state board of education, and the superintendent of
25 public instruction concerning duties and activities within the board's
26 advisory capacity. The Washington professional educator standards
27 board shall submit a separate report by December 1, 2000, to the
28 governor, the education and fiscal committees of the legislature, the
29 state board of education, and the superintendent of public instruction
30 providing recommendations for at least two high quality alternative
31 routes to teacher certification. In its deliberations, the board shall
32 consider at least one route that permits persons with substantial
33 subject matter expertise to achieve residency certification through an
34 on-the-job training program provided by a school district; and

35 ((+3)) (4) Establish the prospective teacher assessment system for
36 basic skills and subject knowledge that shall be required to obtain
37 residency certification pursuant to RCW 28A.410.220 through
38 28A.410.240.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.305.130 and 2002 c 205 s 3 are each amended to
2 read as follows:

3 In addition to any other powers and duties as provided by law, the
4 state board of education shall:

5 (1) Approve or disapprove the program of courses leading to initial
6 teacher, school administrator, and school specialized personnel
7 certification offered by all institutions of higher education within
8 the state which may be accredited and whose graduates may become
9 entitled to receive such certification, except those programs leading
10 to professional certification.

11 (2) Conduct every five years a review of the program approval
12 standards, except those programs leading to professional certification,
13 including the minimum standards for teachers, administrators, and
14 educational staff associates, to reflect research findings and assure
15 continued improvement of preparation programs for teachers,
16 administrators, and educational staff associates.

17 (3) Investigate the character of the work required to be performed
18 as a condition of entrance to and graduation from any institution of
19 higher education in this state relative to such certification as
20 provided for in subsection (1) of this section, and prepare a list of
21 accredited institutions of higher education of this and other states
22 whose graduates may be awarded such certificates.

23 (4)(a) The state board of education shall adopt rules to allow a
24 teacher certification candidate to fulfill, in part, teacher
25 preparation program requirements through work experience as a
26 classified teacher's aide in a public school or private school meeting
27 the requirements of RCW 28A.195.010. The rules shall include, but are
28 not limited to, limitations based upon the recency of the teacher
29 preparation candidate's teacher aide work experience, and limitations
30 based on the amount of work experience that may apply toward teacher
31 preparation program requirements under this chapter.

32 (b) The state board of education shall require that at the time of
33 the individual's enrollment in a teacher preparation program, the
34 supervising teacher and the building principal shall jointly provide to
35 the teacher preparation program of the higher education institution at
36 which the teacher candidate is enrolled, a written assessment of the
37 performance of the teacher candidate. The assessment shall contain
38 such information as determined by the state board of education and

1 shall include: Evidence that at least fifty percent of the candidate's
2 work as a classified teacher's aide was involved in instructional
3 activities with children under the supervision of a certificated
4 teacher and that the candidate worked a minimum of six hundred thirty
5 hours for one school year; the type of work performed by the candidate;
6 and a recommendation of whether the candidate's work experience as a
7 classified teacher's aide should be substituted for teacher preparation
8 program requirements. In compliance with such rules as may be
9 established by the state board of education under this section, the
10 teacher preparation programs of the higher education institution where
11 the candidate is enrolled shall make the final determination as to what
12 teacher preparation program requirements may be fulfilled by teacher
13 aide work experience.

14 (5) Supervise the issuance of such certificates, except
15 professional certificates, as provided for in subsection (1) of this
16 section and specify the types and kinds of certificates necessary for
17 the several departments of the common schools by rule or regulation in
18 accordance with RCW 28A.410.010.

19 (6) Accredite, subject to such accreditation standards and
20 procedures as may be established by the state board of education, all
21 schools that apply for accreditation, and approve, subject to the
22 provisions of RCW 28A.195.010, private schools carrying out a program
23 for any or all of the grades kindergarten through twelve: PROVIDED,
24 That no private school may be approved that operates a kindergarten
25 program only: PROVIDED FURTHER, That no public or private schools
26 shall be placed upon the list of accredited schools so long as secret
27 societies are knowingly allowed to exist among its students by school
28 officials: PROVIDED FURTHER, That the state board may elect to require
29 all or certain classifications of the public schools to conduct and
30 participate in such preaccreditation examination and evaluation
31 processes as may now or hereafter be established by the board.

32 (7) Make rules and regulations governing the establishment in any
33 existing nonhigh school district of any secondary program or any new
34 grades in grades nine through twelve. Before any such program or any
35 new grades are established the district must obtain prior approval of
36 the state board.

37 (8) Prepare such outline of study for the common schools as the
38 board shall deem necessary, and prescribe such rules for the general

1 government of the common schools, as shall seek to secure regularity of
2 attendance, prevent truancy, secure efficiency, and promote the true
3 interest of the common schools.

4 (9) Continuously reevaluate courses and adopt and enforce
5 regulations within the common schools so as to meet the educational
6 needs of students and articulate with the institutions of higher
7 education and unify the work of the public school system.

8 (10) Carry out board powers and duties relating to the organization
9 and reorganization of school districts under chapter 28A.315 RCW
10 (~~(28A.315.010 through 28A.315.680 and 28A.315.900)~~).

11 (11) Hear and decide appeals as otherwise provided by law.

12 The state board of education is given the authority to promulgate
13 information and rules dealing with the prevention of child abuse for
14 purposes of curriculum use in the common schools.

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