
SENATE BILL 6256

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, McAuliffe and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 01/10/2006. Referred to Committee on Early Learning, K-12 & Higher Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to after-school programs; adding a new section to
2 chapter 28A.215 RCW; creating a new section; making an appropriation;
3 and providing an effective date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that good after-
6 school programs and activities provide safe and effective learning
7 environments for children, including children who might otherwise be
8 alone and unsupervised after school. These programs not only support
9 children's academic efforts, they also build community partnerships
10 that support children and their learning.

11 (2) The legislature finds that students who participate in good
12 after-school care programs:

13 (a) Miss fewer days of school and have better behavior in school,
14 test scores, grades, and records of homework completion than children
15 who are left alone;

16 (b) Spend more time actively learning in a variety of settings and
17 less time watching television than their peers who are left alone; and

18 (c) Have better peer relations, emotional adjustment, and conflict
19 resolution skills than children who are left alone.

1 (3) The legislature further finds that, at the request of the
2 legislature, the Washington after-school network has prepared a
3 statewide after-school plan that would help the state make strategic
4 investments in programs and activities that support children
5 academically while keeping them safe and well-supervised. Therefore,
6 the legislature intends to implement the plan by expanding high quality
7 after-school programs, supporting professional development for after-
8 school program staff, increasing public awareness of program benefits,
9 and supporting the after-school organizational infrastructure to ensure
10 economies of scale in support of after-school programs.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.215
12 RCW to read as follows:

13 (1) The Washington community learning center program is
14 established. The program shall be administered by the office of the
15 superintendent of public instruction. The purposes of the program
16 include:

17 (a) Supporting the creation or expansion of community learning
18 centers that provide students with tutoring and educational enrichment
19 when school is not in session;

20 (b) Providing training and professional development for community
21 learning center program staff;

22 (c) Increasing public awareness of the availability and benefits of
23 after-school programs; and

24 (d) Supporting statewide after-school intermediary organizations in
25 their efforts to provide leadership, coordination, technical
26 assistance, advocacy, and programmatic support to after-school programs
27 throughout the state.

28 (2) To the extent that funding is available for this purpose, the
29 office of the superintendent of public instruction may provide
30 community learning center grants to any public or private organization
31 that meets the eligibility criteria of the federal twenty-first century
32 community learning centers program. Priority may be given to grant
33 requests submitted jointly by one or more schools or school districts
34 and one or more community-based organizations or other nonschool
35 partners. Priority shall be given to grant requests that focus on
36 improving reading and mathematics proficiency for students who attend

1 schools that have been identified as being in need of improvement under
2 section 1116 of Title I of the federal no child left behind act of
3 2001.

4 (3) Community learning center grant funds may be used to carry out
5 a broad array of out-of-school activities that support and enhance
6 academic achievement. The activities may include but need not be
7 limited to:

- 8 (a) Remedial and academic enrichment;
- 9 (b) Mathematics, reading, and science education;
- 10 (c) Arts and music education;
- 11 (d) Entrepreneurial education;
- 12 (e) Community service;
- 13 (f) Tutoring and mentoring programs;
- 14 (g) Programs enhancing the language skills and academic achievement
15 of limited English proficient students;
- 16 (h) Recreational and athletic activities;
- 17 (i) Telecommunications and technology education;
- 18 (j) Programs that promote parental involvement and family literacy;
- 19 (k) Drug and violence prevention, counseling, and character
20 education programs; and
- 21 (l) Programs that assist students who have been truant, suspended,
22 or expelled, to improve their academic achievement.

23 (4) Each community learning center grant may be made for a maximum
24 of five years.

25 (5) To the extent that funding is available for this purpose, the
26 office of the superintendent of public instruction may provide grants
27 or other support for the training and professional development of
28 community learning center staff, the activities of intermediary after-
29 school organizations, and efforts to increase public awareness of the
30 availability and benefits of after-school programs.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The sum of two hundred seventy-five thousand
32 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for
33 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, from the general fund to the
34 office of the superintendent of public instruction to carry out the
35 purposes of this act.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act takes effect August 1, 2006.

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