
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6821

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2006 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Early Learning, K-12 Higher Education
(originally sponsored by Senators McAuliffe, Schmidt, Weinstein, Kohl-
Welles, Pridemore, Benton, Delvin, Rasmussen and Franklin)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/06.

1 AN ACT Relating to college and career readiness centers; and
2 creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the state
5 has committed itself to providing educational opportunities to students
6 until age twenty-one or until they receive a high school diploma,
7 whichever occurs first. The legislature further recognizes that the
8 purpose of education reform has been to assure that all students are
9 provided a rigorous educational experience that will prepare them for
10 college or the work force. The legislature understands, however, that
11 all students have different learning styles and learn at different
12 rates and that some may require more time to earn a diploma than the
13 standard four years of high school. For these older students, the
14 legislature recognizes that additional opportunities outside of the
15 traditional high school classroom may be necessary. It is the intent
16 of the legislature to explore what learning environments are best
17 suited to helping students access the knowledge and skills necessary to
18 become college or career ready.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) To the extent funds are appropriated,
2 the office of the superintendent of public instruction in conjunction
3 with the higher education coordinating board and the state board for
4 community and technical colleges, shall convene a work group to explore
5 the creation of college and career readiness centers as a way to
6 provide additional learning opportunities for students in middle
7 school, high school, and beyond high school, up to age twenty-one, who
8 are at a risk of not graduating from high school with their peers. The
9 work group shall, at a minimum, consider the following issues:

10 (a) Where college and career readiness centers should be located;

11 (b) How to best administer the educational program at the centers
12 in order to provide students with a flexible learning environment that
13 accommodates the needs of students, including instructional activities
14 and support;

15 (c) How students, parents, and the community should be provided
16 information about college and career readiness centers;

17 (d) Funding mechanisms for college and career readiness centers;

18 (e) Eligibility criteria for college and career readiness centers;
19 and

20 (f) How a community-school district partnership involving parents,
21 youth organizations, institutions of higher education, and other
22 community leaders of community organizations could be brought together
23 to help implement college and career readiness centers that would
24 support students with diverse learning styles and strategies who may
25 have unique problems and barriers to success in public high schools.
26 In considering the development and implementation of a community-school
27 district partnership, the work group shall consider and make
28 recommendations regarding the use of demonstration projects to pilot
29 this option, including a time frame and cost for implementation.

30 (2) The work group shall include representatives of the following
31 groups, agencies, and organizations:

32 (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction;

33 (b) The state board of education;

34 (c) Teachers and faculty from the K-12 and higher education system;

35 (d) School administrators;

36 (e) School counselors;

37 (f) Educational service districts;

38 (g) Institutions of higher education;

1 (h) Work force training and education coordinating board;
2 (i) Representatives of cultural, linguistic, and racial minority
3 groups;
4 (j) Representatives of the business community;
5 (k) Representatives of federally recognized Washington tribes;
6 (l) Skill centers; and
7 (m) Other interested organizations and personnel.
8 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
9 report the findings of the work group under this section to the state
10 board of education and the legislature no later than January 10, 2007.

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