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**SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6821**

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**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 these students access the knowledge and skills  
18      necessary to 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 between the ages  
7        of seventeen and twenty-one who were unable to graduate from high  
8        school with their peers but wish to continue their education and earn  
9        a diploma. The work group shall, at a minimum, consider the following  
10       issues:

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

12        (b) How to best administer the educational program at the centers  
13        in order to provide students with a flexible learning environment that  
14        accommodates the needs of older students;

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

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

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

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

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

23        (b) The state board of education;

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

25        (d) School administrators;

26        (e) School counselors;

27        (f) Educational service districts;

28        (g) Institutions of higher education;

29        (h) Work force training and education coordinating board;

30        (i) Skill centers; and

31        (j) Other interested organizations and personnel.

32        (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
33        report the findings of the work group under this section to the state  
34        board of education and the legislature no later than January 10, 2007.

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