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HOUSE BILL 1619

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State of Washington                      60th Legislature                      2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Anderson, Priest and Haigh

Read first time 01/24/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to establishing first teacher parent mentor  
2 programs; and creating new sections.

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

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that families have a  
5 major influence on their children's achievement in school. Families of  
6 all income and education levels, and from all ethnic and cultural  
7 backgrounds, should be supported and encouraged to be involved in  
8 school and in their children's learning at home. Therefore the  
9 legislature intends to establish first teacher parent mentor programs  
10 to provide connections between schools, community organizations, and  
11 parents; recruit and provide training for parent mentors; and expand  
12 opportunities for involvement by parents in their children's schools,  
13 particularly for parents from diverse communities.

14            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.** (1) Subject to the availability of funds  
15 appropriated for this purpose, the superintendent of public instruction  
16 shall allocate pilot grants on a competitive basis to school district  
17 and community partnerships for the purpose of establishing first  
18 teacher parent mentor programs.

1 (2) School districts that apply for a pilot grant under this  
2 section must create partnerships with community organizations, state  
3 and local government social service offices, and parent advisory  
4 councils to establish the programs. In awarding the pilot grants, the  
5 superintendent shall give priority to school districts with high  
6 enrollment of students from diverse communities and school districts  
7 where additional strategies such as expanded parent involvement are  
8 needed to improve student achievement and reduce the achievement gap.

9 (3) The pilot grants may be used for the purposes of:

10 (a) Recruiting parents from diverse communities and training them  
11 as mentors of other parents and advocates on behalf of their children's  
12 education;

13 (b) Providing a stipend for parent mentors to conduct outreach with  
14 other parents; serving as liaisons between parents, schools, and  
15 community organizations; and acting as resources in helping parents  
16 access educational, social, and governmental services from partners in  
17 the program;

18 (c) Expanding parent involvement opportunities and multicultural  
19 activities in schools, particularly for parents from diverse  
20 communities;

21 (d) Conducting informational sessions for parents from diverse  
22 communities to help them in their role as their children's first  
23 teacher; and

24 (e) Conducting training for school staff on how to create "family-  
25 friendly" school environments, particularly for families from diverse  
26 communities.

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