
HOUSE BILL 2290

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Roach, Morrell, Williams, O'Brien, Ericks, Priest, Hurst, Ormsby and Simpson

Read first time 02/19/2007. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing educational options for students with
2 autism; adding a new section to chapter 28A.155 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that some students
6 with special needs would receive additional benefit from a highly
7 specialized learning environment that is uniquely tailored for groups
8 of students with similar needs. For example, a learning environment
9 designed specifically for students with autistic spectrum disorders
10 would provide instruction from teachers and other educators specially
11 trained to address challenges in communication, socialization, and
12 behavior. The latest research on best practices and the latest and
13 most appropriate curriculum could be implemented. Parents could be an
14 integral part of the learning environment and could learn from and
15 support one another. Therefore, the legislature intends to encourage
16 the creation of autism education centers to provide a specialized
17 learning environment tailored to students with autistic spectrum
18 disorders.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Educational service districts, private schools, or nonprofit
4 organizations may establish autism education centers for the purpose of
5 providing an appropriate public education in a specially designed
6 learning environment for students with autistic spectrum disorders. To
7 qualify as an autism education center under this section, a private
8 school or nonprofit organization must be an agency approved by the
9 superintendent of public instruction under RCW 28A.155.060 to operate
10 special education programs for students with disabilities.

11 (2) The parent or guardian of a student with an autistic spectrum
12 disorder who is eligible to receive services under this chapter may
13 enroll the student in an autism education center established under this
14 section.

15 (3) If the parent or guardian enrolls the student in an autism
16 education center, the resident school district shall contract with the
17 center to provide an appropriate educational opportunity and services
18 for the student.

19 (4) If applicable, the resident district may apply to the state
20 special education safety net to access additional resources to serve
21 the student.

22 (5) Students enrolled in an autism education center shall not be
23 counted as part of the resident district's special education enrollment
24 percent as defined by the omnibus appropriations act.

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