
HOUSE BILL 2303

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, Hasegawa, Kenney, O'Brien, Eickmeyer, Priest, Fromhold, Haigh, Kessler, Upthegrove, Quall and Dickerson

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

1 AN ACT Relating to the creation of a future bilingual teacher
2 mentoring and training program; adding new sections to chapter 28A.300
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the students in
6 Washington's schools have continuously become more diverse, with a
7 significant increase in the number of immigrant students arriving in
8 the state without the ability to proficiently speak or understand
9 English. These students represent Washington's integral linkage with
10 the global economy and provide an opportunity to invest in Washington
11 state's future role in that international economy.

12 Further, the legislature finds that there is a shortage of
13 bilingual teachers and, therefore, a shortage of teachers who can speak
14 to English language learners and their parents in their native
15 languages and serve as role models. Students served in the state's
16 bilingual education program increased by two hundred six percent
17 between 1990 and 2004. However, there has not been a corresponding
18 increase in the number of trained bilingual educators.

1 The office of the superintendent of public instruction reports that
2 only one-fifth of teachers serving the state's eighty-seven thousand
3 bilingual students have a bilingual teaching endorsement. Research
4 shows that students learn the English language more quickly when
5 provided the benefit of trained bilingual teachers.

6 The legislature recognizes that until students who are English
7 language learners become proficient in English, test scores on state
8 assessments will remain low in comparison to students who are native
9 English speakers.

10 To address the communications and learning gap of English language
11 learners, the legislature intends to promote a grow-your-own approach
12 to developing an adequate supply of bilingual teachers. The most
13 effective method to develop an adequate supply of bilingual teachers is
14 to motivate, train, and invest in students in Washington who already
15 possess the resource of two languages and who are college bound.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) A bilingual teacher mentoring and training program is created,
19 as a pilot project conducted by the Latino/a educational achievement
20 project (LEAP) in partnership with the superintendent of public
21 instruction. Participating students will be recruited in their junior
22 year and assigned a teacher/mentor. Students selected to participate
23 in the program must be fluent in English and another language,
24 including but not limited to Spanish. Students fluent in Washington
25 state trade partner languages shall be given preference in the
26 selection process. Teachers/mentors shall work with parents and
27 students using a teacher mentoring and training curriculum that is
28 developed for the specific purpose of mentoring and training future
29 bilingual teachers. Pilot programs shall be conducted in eastern and
30 western Washington, serving fifty students in the 2007-2009 biennium.
31 The pilot programs shall be chosen from LEAP school district
32 educational partners through a process designed by LEAP.

33 (2) The teacher mentoring and training program shall be a two-year
34 program, with students participating in their junior and senior years
35 of high school. Students who successfully complete the program shall
36 qualify for the future teachers conditional scholarship and loan

1 repayment program as defined in chapter 28B.102 RCW. To qualify, a
2 student must:

3 (a) Show satisfactory progress toward high school graduation and be
4 taking college preparatory classes at the time of entry into the
5 teacher mentoring and training program;

6 (b) Graduate with at least a "C" average from a public high school
7 or an approved private high school under chapter 28A.195 RCW in
8 Washington;

9 (c) Have no felony convictions;

10 (d) Be a Washington resident student as defined in RCW 28B.15.012;
11 and

12 (e) Devote one hundred hours during each of his or her junior and
13 senior years of high school to teacher mentoring and training program
14 activities.

15 (3) For a student attending a two or four-year institution of
16 higher education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016, the future teacher
17 scholarship award:

18 (a) May not exceed the difference between the student's tuition,
19 fees, books, and materials, less the value of any state grant or
20 scholarship aid the student receives for tuition, fees, books, and
21 materials;

22 (b) May not exceed one hundred eighty quarter credits, or the
23 semester equivalent; and

24 (c) Must be used within five years of receipt.

25 (4) The first conditional scholarships shall be awarded to students
26 graduating high school in 2009.

27 (5) The teacher mentoring and training program mentor shall be all
28 of the following:

29 (a) An active or retired school district teacher who meets state
30 guidelines required of teachers to work with students;

31 (b) Bilingual and have bicultural skills and knowledge;

32 (c) Knowledgeable of secondary and postsecondary educational
33 systems, with the ability to advise students on preparing to enter
34 four-year degree-granting universities; and

35 (d) The same gender as the students for whom he or she agrees to
36 mentor.

37 (6) At minimum, the teacher mentoring and training program mentor
38 shall:

1 (a) Serve as a mentor to two students and receive a one thousand
2 dollar stipend each year;

3 (b) Devote a minimum of forty hours each year to approved teacher
4 mentoring and training program activities;

5 (c) Meet with students weekly for a minimum of fifteen minutes;

6 (d) Keep a monthly documentation log with the time, date, and
7 purpose of meetings with students and parents or guardians;

8 (e) Receive and review student attendance regularly, and share the
9 information with parents or guardians at least quarterly;

10 (f) Monitor students' progress toward high school graduation;

11 (g) Confer with students and their parents or guardians and
12 counseling staff on college search, application processes, college
13 preparatory courses, financial aid, and any other college-related
14 issues;

15 (h) Assist students in appropriate course selection to ensure
16 students can eventually meet four-year college entrance requirements;

17 (i) Guide students on the registration requirements for necessary
18 tests such as the SAT and ACT; and

19 (j) Carry out other responsibilities as identified in school
20 district teacher mentoring and training program implementation plans.

21 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall assist LEAP in
22 the design and administration of the teacher mentoring and training
23 program. The superintendent of public instruction shall distribute
24 funds to program partners and participating teachers. The
25 superintendent of public instruction shall report to the education and
26 higher education committees of the legislature on the outcomes of the
27 pilot program by December 1, 2008.

28 (8) As used in this section, "Washington state trade partner
29 language" means any language spoken in a country that imports, exports,
30 or uses products primarily produced in the state of Washington.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
32 RCW to read as follows:

33 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this specific purpose, the
34 superintendent of public instruction shall create the teacher mentoring
35 and training program. The superintendent, in partnership with LEAP,
36 shall determine the criteria for the distribution of funds.

1 (2) The superintendent of public instruction may, in implementing
2 this section, accept, use, and dispose of contributions of money,
3 services, and property. All moneys received by the superintendent for
4 the purposes of this section must be deposited in a depository approved
5 by the state treasurer. Only the superintendent or a duly authorized
6 representative thereof may authorize expenditures from this account.
7 In order to maintain an effective expenditure and revenue control, the
8 account is subject in all respects to chapter 43.88 RCW, but no
9 appropriation is required to permit expenditure of moneys in the
10 account.

11 (3) The distribution of funds shall be consistent with any existing
12 collective bargaining agreements.

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