
House Bill 2607

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Santos, Hasegawa, Ormsby, Anderson, Lantz, Hudgins, Upthegrove, Sullivan, Chase, Darneille, and Simpson

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1 AN ACT Relating to preparing teachers to teach English language
2 learner students; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that an increasing
5 proportion of K-12 students are English language learners.
6 Furthermore, a significant number of English language learner students
7 are struggling to meet the state's academic learning standards.
8 Specific strategies are necessary to improve the achievement and
9 progress of these students. Instruction for English language learner
10 students should be integrated with English-fluent students. Classroom
11 teachers should collaborate with specialist teachers to provide high
12 quality instruction. All teachers should demonstrate a high level of
13 cultural competence and understanding of second language acquisition.

14 (2) However, the legislature further finds that current standards
15 for preparing teachers to meet the learning needs of English language
16 learner students are inadequate. Therefore, the legislature intends to
17 task the professional educator standards board to work with colleges of
18 education and school districts to identify specific ways to better
19 prepare teachers to teach English language learner students.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The professional educator standards
2 board shall convene a work group to develop recommendations for
3 increasing teacher knowledge, skills, and competencies to address the
4 needs of English language learner students. The work group shall
5 include representatives from the Washington association of colleges for
6 teacher education, school districts with significant populations of
7 English language learner students who speak a single language, school
8 districts with significant populations of English language learner
9 students who speak multiple languages, classroom teachers, English as
10 a second language teachers, bilingual education teachers, principals,
11 and the higher education coordinating board. The professional educator
12 standards board shall invite participation by the northwest regional
13 educational laboratory.

14 (2) The work group shall identify gaps and weaknesses in the
15 current knowledge and skills standards for teacher preparation and
16 teacher competencies regarding understanding how students acquire
17 language, how to teach academic content in English to non-English
18 speakers, and demonstrating cultural competence. The work group shall
19 be informed by the English as a second language demonstration projects
20 under RCW 28A.630.058 and the accompanying research and evaluation by
21 the northwest regional educational laboratory.

22 (3) The work group shall submit a report by December 1, 2008, to
23 the governor and the education and higher education committees of the
24 legislature with findings and specific recommendations to improve the
25 teacher preparation knowledge and skills standards and teacher
26 competencies in the areas identified under subsection (2) of this
27 section.

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