
HOUSE BILL 2773

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Barlow, Haigh, Seaquist, O'Brien, McCoy, Ormsby, Hasegawa, Schual-Berke, Moeller, Warnick, Roberts, Morrell, and Kenney

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to instructional support services; adding a new
2 section to chapter 28A.150 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that there has
5 been much focus and attention on the importance of teachers in
6 providing quality instruction to improve student achievement. However,
7 there has not been sufficient focus and attention on the equal
8 importance of instructional support services and the staff such as
9 counselors and librarians who provide them.

10 (2) Instructional support services enable students to maximize the
11 benefits of a high quality teacher:

12 (a) Most people now recognize that a K-12 education is a beginning,
13 not an end to a student's educational path. There has been increased
14 legislative attention in recent years to the importance of helping
15 students explore, plan, and prepare for their future. School
16 counselors play a critical support role in preparing students for the
17 transitions of high school and beyond and in helping students take full
18 advantage of K-12 learning opportunities and experiences.

1 (b) Today's teachers cannot rely simply on a book and a lesson plan
2 to provide quality instruction. Multiple sources of information,
3 including multimedia, video, and the internet, are brought into play.
4 Students, in turn, must use more sophisticated media research and
5 analysis skills than ever before to be successful in an information-
6 rich society. The research, media, and information expertise of
7 teacher librarians is increasingly critical to support classroom
8 instruction.

9 (3) The legislature acknowledges that the basic education finance
10 joint task force will be developing recommendations regarding funding
11 and funding formulas for core instruction and critical instructional
12 support services. However, there is a sense of urgency in the need for
13 additional instructional support services that cannot wait for full
14 implementation of the task force recommendations. Therefore, the
15 legislature intends to implement a short-term remedy so that critical
16 instructional support services can be increased and improved.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of
20 the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate funds to school
21 districts on the basis of each one thousand average annual full-time
22 equivalent enrollments for an additional forty-eight one-hundredths
23 certificated instructional staff units in grades six through twelve.
24 Any funds allocated for the additional certificated units provided in
25 this section shall be used to increase instructional support services
26 provided by certificated school counselors and librarians and shall not
27 be considered basic education funding.

28 (2) The legislature assumes that funds provided under this section
29 are sufficient for school districts to provide an additional one-half
30 full-time equivalent counselor or librarian for an average-sized high
31 school, prorated based on the size of the high school for smaller and
32 larger schools. An average-sized high school is assumed to be six
33 hundred students.

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