
HOUSE BILL 2808

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Representatives Sullivan, Upthegrove, Quall, Lias, Priest, Green, Conway, Pedersen, Kenney, Hudgins, Santos, Kelley, and Ormsby

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

1 AN ACT Relating to providing enhanced counseling and learning
2 opportunities for certain high school students; adding new sections to
3 chapter 28A.320 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is likely that more than eighty-five
6 percent of students in the class of 2008 who had accumulated sufficient
7 course credits by the time they entered their senior year will complete
8 all high school graduation requirements by June of 2008, including
9 meeting the state standard in reading and writing on the high school
10 Washington assessment of student learning or an approved alternative.
11 However, it is also likely that as many as ten thousand or more
12 students across the state will not be ready to graduate in June as a
13 result of not meeting the state standard in reading, writing, or both.
14 Furthermore, it is likely that each year in the future, some proportion
15 of students will simply not be ready to graduate after twelve years of
16 school. These students will need additional instruction so they can
17 earn their diplomas. New courses and instructional strategies must be
18 developed that are appropriate for these students. Perhaps more
19 important, these students will need support, encouragement, guidance,

1 and access to learning opportunities that will help them transition
2 beyond high school and make progress in a career pathway that will lead
3 to additional education and a family wage job. Such learning
4 opportunities exist, but they need to be expanded, and more effort must
5 be made to inform students about them.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 (1) Beginning no later than June of 2008, the office of the
9 superintendent of public instruction shall collect and disseminate
10 information to high schools in the state on at least the following
11 topics:

12 (a) Options for students who are not ready to graduate with their
13 class to continue receiving instruction geared to high school
14 completion or obtaining a GED, or both, and certification through high
15 schools, skill centers, and community and technical colleges;

16 (b) Skills training and tutoring options for young adults offered
17 through local community-based organizations;

18 (c) Online learning opportunities targeted to basic skills
19 acquisition;

20 (d) Workforce education and training options and pathways,
21 especially in occupations that will lead to family wage jobs and are in
22 demand by employers; and

23 (e) Availability of financial aid for postsecondary education and
24 assistance for students and families in accessing financial aid,
25 including the opportunity grant program under RCW 28B.50.271.

26 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
27 also develop information and training for counselors and mentor
28 teachers on providing guidance to students who have completed required
29 course credits but will not be ready to graduate with their class
30 because they need additional skills in key academic areas, including
31 meeting state standards on the Washington assessment of student
32 learning. Guidance and counseling programs for these students must
33 include encouragement and support for high school completion and
34 specific assistance with entering and making progress in a career
35 pathway that will lead to additional education and a family wage job.

36 (3) Beginning in the summer of 2008, the office of the
37 superintendent of public instruction shall create and offer a training

1 module through the summer institutes for high school counselors and
2 mentor teachers on the topics described in subsections (1) and (2) of
3 this section.

4 (4) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of
5 the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate funds to school
6 districts and educational service districts to provide the enhanced
7 guidance, counseling, support, and assistance described in this
8 section, which shall be targeted first to students who have completed
9 required course credits but will not be ready to graduate with their
10 class. Funds shall be allocated as specified in the omnibus
11 appropriations act. The legislature's intent is that funding under
12 this subsection be allocated primarily on the basis of the anticipated
13 number of students in the target population in a district, with funds
14 allocated to educational service districts where regional outreach is
15 a more feasible method of service delivery due to small numbers of
16 students dispersed among multiple school districts. The office of the
17 superintendent of public instruction shall annually collect and report
18 statistics on the number of students served by the enhanced programs
19 under this subsection and the number of subsequent high school or
20 certificate completions among students in the target population.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the office of
24 the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate grants to
25 school districts, skill centers, and educational service districts to
26 create high school plus programs targeted to students who have
27 completed required course credits but are not ready to graduate with
28 their class because they need additional skills in key academic areas,
29 including meeting state standards on the Washington assessment of
30 student learning.

31 (2) High school plus programs must include, at a minimum:

32 (a) Skill instruction and tutoring for students in the key academic
33 areas necessary for them to meet state standards on the Washington
34 assessment of student learning, offered using alternative service
35 delivery methods such as flexible scheduling, evening and weekend
36 classes, self-paced and outcome-based curriculum, or online courses;

1 (b) Assistance with development of a collection of evidence
2 alternative assessment;

3 (c) Enhanced guidance, counseling, support, and assistance; and

4 (d) Opportunities for students to enroll in additional courses,
5 work-based learning, internships, or other programs that provide entry
6 to a career pathway that will lead to additional education and a family
7 wage job. Grant recipients may offer the career pathway opportunities
8 directly or in partnership with community-based organizations and
9 community and technical colleges.

10 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
11 allocate the grants under this section on a competitive basis but rely
12 on a simple application and allocate funds largely on the number of
13 students in the target population. In order to provide services to
14 students in the class of 2008, the first grant recipients shall be
15 announced no later than June 15, 2008, with an additional round of
16 applications possible if there are an insufficient number of initial
17 respondents. To maximize available resources, school districts are
18 encouraged to submit collaborative applications that coordinate
19 services across multiple districts.

20 (4) Grants under this section may be used for program design and
21 development, start-up costs, curriculum, and capacity to operate and
22 sustain a special program for small numbers of students. To support
23 high school plus programs, school districts may also use funding for
24 programs under RCW 28A.150.220 for students under the age of twenty-one
25 who are enrolled for the purpose of completing a high school diploma,
26 any enhanced funding for guidance and counseling such as that described
27 under section 2 of this act, and other available resources.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The office of the superintendent of public
29 instruction shall submit a report on the program design and outcomes of
30 high school plus programs created under section 3 of this act to the
31 education committees of the legislature by September 15, 2009. The
32 office shall also recommend a funding mechanism for high school plus
33 programs that does not rely on competitive grants and any additional
34 changes to improve the effectiveness of the programs.

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