

---

SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2870

---

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

**By** House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Liiias, Sullivan, Ericks, Williams, Loomis, Simpson, Ormsby, Miloscia, Hasegawa, Roberts, Santos, Quall, and Nelson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to professional development for instructional  
2 assistants; adding a new section to chapter 28A.415 RCW; and creating  
3 new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that classified  
6 instructional assistants are key partners with classroom teachers in  
7 improving student achievement. Research on rigorous reading programs,  
8 including the reading first programs in our own state, proves that when  
9 instructional assistants are skilled, well-trained in a particular  
10 intervention, and positively supported by the classroom teacher or  
11 coach, they can have a significant impact on student reading  
12 attainment. The legislature further finds that school district  
13 practice provides sufficient evidence of the need for instructional  
14 assistants. Statewide, school districts relied on more than nineteen  
15 thousand classified instructional assistants, equal to nearly ten  
16 thousand full-time equivalent staff, during the 2006-07 school year.  
17 Therefore, the legislature intends to support instructional assistants  
18 by providing opportunities for high quality professional development to  
19 make them more effective partners in the classroom.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 2.**   A new section is added to chapter 28A.415  
2   RCW to read as follows:

3        The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in  
4   consultation with various groups representing school district  
5   classified employees, shall develop and offer a training strand through  
6   the summer institutes and the winter conference targeted to classified  
7   instructional assistants and designed to help them maximize their  
8   effectiveness in improving student achievement.

9        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   If specific funding for the purposes of this  
10   act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by  
11   June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and  
12   void.

--- END ---