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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1162**

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**State of Washington**

**61st Legislature**

**2009 Regular Session**

**By** House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Dickerson, Quall, Sullivan, Haigh, Orwall, Liias, Takko, Kagi, Green, Simpson, Kenney, and Nelson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/13/09.

1       AN ACT Relating to social emotional learning in public schools;  
2 adding new sections to chapter 28A.300 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 basic  
5 education instruction in public schools in Washington state should  
6 include not only instruction in core academic skills, but also core  
7 social emotional learning skills. Students with strong social  
8 emotional learning skills do better in school. They are able to manage  
9 their emotions and behavior, form and maintain healthy relationships,  
10 and make positive and ethical decisions. Healthy relationships are key  
11 to learning and essential for students' future success in the workplace  
12 and in the community. These students have significantly better  
13 attendance records, their classroom behavior is more constructive and  
14 less often disruptive, they like school more, and they have better  
15 grade point averages. They are also less likely to be suspended or  
16 disciplined. The overall result is a more effective and successful  
17 classroom experience for all students.

18       (2) Therefore schools should be encouraged and supported wherever  
19 possible to incorporate social emotional learning skills into basic

1 education instruction through appropriate learning standards,  
2 research-based curriculum and programs, classroom-based assessment, and  
3 professional development for educators.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) To the extent funds are available in  
5 the account created under section 3 of this act, the office of the  
6 superintendent of public instruction shall promote and encourage  
7 incorporation of social emotional learning into basic education  
8 instruction in public schools. Activities may include:

9 (a) Disseminating information about research-based curricula and  
10 model programs in social emotional learning;

11 (b) Providing guidelines for how school districts can incorporate  
12 social emotional learning into basic education instruction at all grade  
13 levels;

14 (c) Referring school districts to high quality professional  
15 development opportunities; and

16 (d) Providing grants to school districts to implement research-  
17 based curricula, professional development, and instruction in social  
18 emotional learning.

19 (2) For the purposes of this section, "social emotional learning"  
20 includes age-appropriate behavioral and emotional management,  
21 relationship skills, conflict resolution, interpersonal communication,  
22 cooperation, decision making, and planning.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The social emotional learning public-private  
24 partnership account is created in the custody of the state treasurer.  
25 The purpose of the account is to support the activities of the office  
26 of the superintendent of public instruction and school districts under  
27 section 2 of this act. Revenues to the account include any  
28 appropriations made by the legislature for the purposes of section 2 of  
29 this act, federal funds, gifts or grants from the private sector or  
30 foundations, and other sources. Only the superintendent of public  
31 instruction or the superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures  
32 from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under  
33 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for  
34 expenditures.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 4.**   Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each added  
2   to chapter 28A.300 RCW.

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