
HOUSE BILL 2244

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representative Haigh

Read first time 02/17/09. Referred to Committee on Education Appropriations.

1 AN ACT Relating to a comprehensive restructuring of education
2 finance and programs; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. The legislature finds ample
5 evidence of a need to redefine the program of education that is funded
6 by the state and delivered by school districts to better align with the
7 stated goal of a basic education. For practical and educational
8 reasons, wholesale change of the program of basic education and the
9 funding formulas to support it cannot occur instantaneously. At the
10 same time, there must be a sense of urgency and a clear commitment to
11 increase the resources for school districts to maintain educational
12 programs that give all students the opportunity to meet the state's
13 basic education goal.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** OVERSIGHT. (1) A basic education steering
15 committee is established to monitor and oversee the development of a
16 new definition of the program of basic education, including the funding
17 formulas and systems of educator compensation, school and district
18 accountability, and data necessary to support the implementation of

1 that program. The steering committee shall be composed of
2 representatives from the legislative and executive branches, as well as
3 school administrators and educators.

4 (2) The steering committee shall:

5 (a) Provide policy guidance for the work conducted under sections
6 3 through 8 of this act. Each of the entities under sections 3 through
7 8 of this act shall submit a preliminary report to the steering
8 committee by November 15, 2009, and a final report by September 1,
9 2010;

10 (b) Develop a proposal for creating an ongoing and independent
11 commission charged with monitoring and analyzing the relationship
12 between education policies and finance, implementation of programs at
13 the school and district level, and student achievement;

14 (c) Recommend to the governor and the legislature a specific
15 schedule for phasing-in a new program of basic education and funding
16 formulas so that any increased requirements occur concurrently with
17 increased resources for implementation; and

18 (d) Submit an initial report to the governor and the legislature by
19 January 1, 2010, and a final report by November 15, 2010.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** PROGRAM OF BASIC EDUCATION AND FUNDING
21 FORMULAS. (1) The legislature intends to redefine the program of
22 education that fulfills the obligations and requirements of Article IX
23 of the state Constitution. The program must include an instructional
24 program of basic education to be delivered by school districts based on
25 minimum instructional hours, school days, content based on the
26 essential academic learning requirements and graduation requirements,
27 and supplemental learning opportunities for students with disabilities,
28 underachieving students, and students whose primary language is other
29 than English.

30 (2) The legislature further intends to redesign the funding
31 formulas necessary to support the program of basic education, including
32 considering using a funding model based on prototypical schools.

33 (3) The office of financial management and the superintendent of
34 public instruction shall convene a basic education program and funding
35 working group with broad and inclusive representation. The working
36 group shall recommend a program of basic education and funding formulas

1 to support that program, along with a concurrent implementation
2 schedule.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND COMPENSATION. (1)
4 The legislature intends to establish a comprehensive system of teacher
5 certification and professional development that is directly aligned
6 with a revised system of compensation and focused on providing support
7 for effective teaching. The legislature further intends to provide
8 adequate resources for school districts to recruit and retain high
9 quality staff, including administrative and classified staff.

10 (2) The office of financial management and the professional
11 educator standards board shall convene an effective teaching and
12 compensation working group with broad and inclusive representation.
13 The working group shall recommend a compensation system that provides
14 support for effective teaching and recruitment and retention of high
15 quality staff, including any changes to teacher certification and
16 professional development necessary to align with the system. The
17 working group shall also recommend a schedule for implementing the new
18 compensation system to assure that no educator experiences any
19 reduction in compensation as a result of the new system.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** EARLY LEARNING. (1) The legislature intends
21 to establish a program of early learning for at-risk children that is
22 part of the program of basic education.

23 (2) The superintendent of public instruction and the department of
24 early learning shall convene an early learning working group with broad
25 and inclusive representation. The working group shall recommend a
26 program of early learning for at-risk children, along with a program
27 delivery and governance structure and funding model.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** ACCOUNTABILITY. (1) The legislature finds
29 that comprehensive education finance reform and the increased
30 investment of public resources must be accompanied by an equally
31 comprehensive system of school and school district accountability. The
32 focus of the accountability system must be on providing assistance for
33 continuous improvement of student achievement in all schools and all
34 school districts.

1 (2) The state board of education shall continue development of a
2 comprehensive school and school district accountability system,
3 including identifying the resources and support mechanisms necessary to
4 implement the system.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** LOCAL FINANCE. (1) The legislature finds
6 that local levy authority and levy equalization remain important
7 components of the overall finance system in support of the public
8 schools even though they are outside the state's obligation for basic
9 education. There must be an equitable basis for supplemental local
10 funding and a mechanism for property tax-poor school districts to
11 fairly access supplemental funding.

12 (2) The office of financial management and the superintendent of
13 public instruction shall convene a local finance working group with
14 broad and inclusive representation. The working group shall develop
15 options for a new system of supplemental school funding through local
16 school levies and local effort assistance.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** EDUCATION DATA SYSTEMS. (1) It is the
18 legislature's intent to establish comprehensive education data systems
19 that monitor student progress, assure educator quality, monitor the
20 costs of programs, provide for financial integrity, and have the
21 capacity to link across these various data components by student, by
22 school, by district, and statewide.

23 (2) The superintendent of public instruction and the education
24 research and data center shall convene a data working group with broad
25 and inclusive representation. The working group shall create a needs
26 requirement document detailing the specific information and technical
27 capacity needed for comprehensive education data systems. The working
28 group shall also develop a proposal for a data governance structure and
29 identify the costs of implementing the data systems.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** Captions used in this act are not any part
31 of the law.

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