
HOUSE BILL 2343

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representative Haigh

1 AN ACT Relating to achieving savings in education programs by
2 revising provisions relating to diagnostic assessments, classified
3 staff training, conditional scholarships, certain professional
4 development programs, coordination for career and technical student
5 organizations, and national board certification bonuses; amending RCW
6 28A.655.200, 28A.415.315, 28A.660.050, 28A.415.350, 28A.300.380,
7 28A.415.250, and 28A.405.415; providing an effective date; and
8 declaring an emergency.

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

10 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.655.200 and 2007 c 354 s 8 are each amended to
11 read as follows:

12 (1) The legislature intends to permit school districts to offer
13 norm-referenced assessments, make diagnostic tools available to school
14 districts, and provide funding for diagnostic assessments to enhance
15 student learning at all grade levels and provide early intervention
16 before the high school Washington assessment of student learning.

17 (2) In addition to the diagnostic assessments provided under this
18 section, school districts may, at their own expense, administer norm-
19 referenced assessments to students.

1 (3) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
2 purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
3 post on its web site for voluntary use by school districts, a guide of
4 diagnostic assessments. The assessments in the guide, to the extent
5 possible, shall include the characteristics listed in subsection (4) of
6 this section.

7 (4) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
8 purpose, beginning September 1, 2007, the office of the superintendent
9 of public instruction shall make diagnostic assessments in reading,
10 writing, mathematics, and science in elementary, middle, and high
11 school grades available to school districts. Subject to funds
12 appropriated for this purpose, the office of the superintendent of
13 public instruction shall also provide funding to school districts for
14 administration of diagnostic assessments to help improve student
15 learning, identify academic weaknesses, enhance student planning and
16 guidance, and develop targeted instructional strategies to assist
17 students before the high school Washington assessment of student
18 learning. To the greatest extent possible, the assessments shall be:

- 19 (a) Aligned to the state's grade level expectations;
- 20 (b) Individualized to each student's performance level;
- 21 (c) Administered efficiently to provide results either immediately
22 or within two weeks;
- 23 (d) Capable of measuring individual student growth over time and
24 allowing student progress to be compared to other students across the
25 country;
- 26 (e) Readily available to parents; and
- 27 (f) Cost-effective.

28 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
29 offer training at statewide and regional staff development activities
30 in:

- 31 (a) The interpretation of diagnostic assessments; and
- 32 (b) Application of instructional strategies that will increase
33 student learning based on diagnostic assessment data.

34 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.415.315 and 2008 c 65 s 2 are each amended to read
35 as follows:

36 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
37 purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction, in

1 consultation with various groups representing school district
2 classified employees, shall develop and offer a training strand through
3 the summer institutes and the winter conference targeted to classified
4 instructional assistants and designed to help them maximize their
5 effectiveness in improving student achievement.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.660.050 and 2007 c 396 s 8 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for these
9 purposes, the conditional scholarship programs in this chapter are
10 created under the following guidelines:

11 (1) The programs shall be administered by the higher education
12 coordinating board. In administering the programs, the higher
13 education coordinating board has the following powers and duties:

14 (a) To adopt necessary rules and develop guidelines to administer
15 the programs;

16 (b) To collect and manage repayments from participants who do not
17 meet their service obligations; and

18 (c) To accept grants and donations from public and private sources
19 for the programs.

20 (2) Requirements for participation in the conditional scholarship
21 programs are as provided in this subsection (2).

22 (a) The alternative route conditional scholarship program is
23 limited to interns of the partnership grant programs under RCW
24 28A.660.040. In order to receive conditional scholarship awards,
25 recipients shall:

26 (i) Be accepted and maintain enrollment in alternative
27 certification routes through the partnership grant program;

28 (ii) Continue to make satisfactory progress toward completion of
29 the alternative route certification program and receipt of a residency
30 teaching certificate; and

31 (iii) Receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship,
32 not to exceed eight thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, fees,
33 and educational expenses, including books, supplies, and transportation
34 for the alternative route certification program in which the recipient
35 is enrolled. The board may adjust the annual award by the average rate
36 of resident undergraduate tuition and fee increases at the state
37 universities as defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

1 (b) The pipeline for paraeducators conditional scholarship program
2 is limited to qualified paraeducators as provided by RCW 28A.660.042.
3 In order to receive conditional scholarship awards, recipients shall:

4 (i) Be accepted and maintain enrollment at a community and
5 technical college for no more than two years and attain an associate of
6 arts degree;

7 (ii) Continue to make satisfactory progress toward completion of an
8 associate of arts degree. This progress requirement is a condition for
9 eligibility into a route one program of the alternative routes to
10 teacher certification program for a mathematics, special education, or
11 English as a second language endorsement; and

12 (iii) Receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship,
13 not to exceed four thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, fees, and
14 educational expenses, including books, supplies, and transportation for
15 the alternative route certification program in which the recipient is
16 enrolled. The board may adjust the annual award by the average rate of
17 tuition and fee increases at the state community and technical
18 colleges.

19 (c) The retooling to teach mathematics and science conditional
20 scholarship program is limited to current K-12 teachers and individuals
21 having an elementary education certificate but who are not employed in
22 positions requiring an elementary education certificate as provided by
23 RCW 28A.660.045. In order to receive conditional scholarship awards:

24 (i) Individuals currently employed as teachers shall pursue a
25 middle level mathematics or science, or secondary mathematics or
26 science endorsement; or

27 (ii) Individuals who are certificated with an elementary education
28 endorsement, but not employed in positions requiring an elementary
29 education certificate, shall pursue an endorsement in middle level
30 mathematics or science, or both; and

31 (iii) Individuals shall use one of the pathways to endorsement
32 processes to receive a mathematics or science endorsement, or both,
33 which shall include passing a mathematics or science endorsement test,
34 or both tests, plus observation and completing applicable coursework to
35 attain the proper endorsement; and

36 (iv) Individuals shall receive no more than the annual amount of
37 the scholarship, not to exceed three thousand dollars, for the cost of

1 tuition, test fees, and educational expenses, including books,
2 supplies, and transportation for the endorsement pathway being pursued.

3 (3) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
4 select individuals to receive conditional scholarships.

5 (4) For the purpose of this chapter, a conditional scholarship is
6 a loan that is forgiven in whole or in part in exchange for service as
7 a certificated teacher employed in a Washington state K-12 public
8 school. The state shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every
9 two years a recipient teaches in a public school. Recipients who fail
10 to continue a course of study leading to residency teacher
11 certification or cease to teach in a public school in the state of
12 Washington in their endorsement area are required to repay the
13 remaining loan principal with interest.

14 (5) Recipients who fail to fulfill the required teaching obligation
15 are required to repay the remaining loan principal with interest and
16 any other applicable fees. The higher education coordinating board
17 shall adopt rules to define the terms for repayment, including
18 applicable interest rates, fees, and deferments.

19 (6) The higher education coordinating board may deposit all
20 appropriations, collections, and any other funds received for the
21 program in this chapter in the future teachers conditional scholarship
22 account authorized in RCW 28B.102.080.

23 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.415.350 and 2007 c 402 s 7 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
26 purpose, the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall:

27 (1) Create partnerships with the educational service districts or
28 public or private institutions of higher education with approved
29 educator preparation programs to develop and deliver professional
30 development learning opportunities for educators that fulfill the goals
31 and address the activities described in sections 3 through 6 of this
32 act and RCW 28A.415.360. The partnerships shall:

33 (a) Support school districts by providing professional development
34 leadership, courses, and consultation services to school districts in
35 their implementation of professional development activities, including
36 the activities described in sections 3 through 6 of this act and RCW
37 28A.415.360; and

1 (b) Support one another in the delivery of state-level and
2 regional-level professional development activities such as state
3 conferences and regional accountability institutes; and

4 (2) Enter into a performance agreement with each educational
5 service district to clearly articulate partner responsibilities and
6 assure fidelity for the delivery of professional development
7 initiatives including job-embedded practices. Components of such
8 performance agreements shall include:

9 (a) Participation in the development of various professional
10 development workshops, programs, and activities;

11 (b) Characteristics and qualifications of professional development
12 staff supported by the program;

13 (c) Methods to ensure consistent delivery of professional
14 development services; and

15 (d) Reporting responsibilities related to services provided,
16 program participation, outcomes, and recommendations for service
17 improvement.

18 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.300.380 and 2000 c 84 s 2 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
21 purpose, the superintendent of public instruction shall maintain
22 support for statewide coordination for career and technical student
23 organizations by providing program staff support that is available to
24 assist in meeting the needs of career and technical student
25 organizations and their members and students. The superintendent shall
26 provide at least one full-time equivalent program staff for purposes of
27 implementing this section. The superintendent may provide additional
28 support to the organizations through contracting with independent
29 coordinators.

30 (2) Career and technical student organizations eligible for
31 technical assistance and other support services under this section are
32 organizations recognized as career and technical student organizations
33 by:

34 (a) The United States department of education; or

35 (b) The superintendent of public instruction, if such recognition
36 is recommended by the Washington association for career and technical
37 education.

1 (3) Career and technical student organizations eligible for
2 technical assistance and other support services under this section
3 include, but are not limited to: The national FFA organization;
4 family, career, and community leaders of America; skillsUSA;
5 distributive education clubs of America; future business leaders of
6 America; and the technology student association.

7 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.415.250 and 1993 c 336 s 401 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
10 purpose, the superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules to
11 establish and operate a teacher assistance program. For the purposes
12 of this section, the terms "mentor teachers," "beginning teachers," and
13 "experienced teachers" may include any person possessing any one of the
14 various certificates issued by the superintendent of public instruction
15 under RCW 28A.410.010. Subject to the availability of amounts
16 appropriated for this purpose, the program shall provide for:

17 (1) Assistance by mentor teachers who will provide a source of
18 continuing and sustained support to beginning teachers, or experienced
19 teachers who are having difficulties, or both, both in and outside the
20 classroom. A mentor teacher may not be involved in evaluations under
21 RCW 28A.405.100 of a teacher who receives assistance from said mentor
22 teacher under the teacher assistance program established under this
23 section. The mentor teachers shall also periodically inform their
24 principals respecting the contents of training sessions and other
25 program activities;

26 (2) Stipends for mentor teachers and beginning and experienced
27 teachers which shall not be deemed compensation for the purposes of
28 salary lid compliance under RCW 28A.400.200: PROVIDED, That stipends
29 shall not be subject to the continuing contract provisions of this
30 title;

31 (3) Workshops for the training of mentor and beginning teachers;

32 (4) The use of substitutes to give mentor teachers, beginning
33 teachers, and experienced teachers opportunities to jointly observe and
34 evaluate teaching situations and to give mentor teachers opportunities
35 to observe and assist beginning and experienced teachers in the
36 classroom;

1 (5) Mentor teachers who are superior teachers based on their
2 evaluations, pursuant to RCW ((~~28A.405.010~~)) 28A.410.025 and
3 28A.405.030 through 28A.405.240, and who hold valid continuing
4 certificates;

5 (6) Mentor teachers shall be selected by the district and may serve
6 as mentors up to and including full time. If a bargaining unit,
7 certified pursuant to RCW 41.59.090 exists within the district,
8 classroom teachers representing the bargaining unit shall participate
9 in the mentor teacher selection process; and

10 (7) Periodic consultation by the superintendent of public
11 instruction or the superintendent's designee with representatives of
12 educational organizations and associations, including educational
13 service districts and public and private institutions of higher
14 education, for the purposes of improving communication and cooperation
15 and program review.

16 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28A.405.415 and 2008 c 175 s 2 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) Certificated instructional staff who have attained
19 certification from the national board for professional teaching
20 standards shall receive a bonus each year in which they maintain the
21 certification. Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
22 this purpose, the bonus shall be calculated as follows: The annual
23 bonus shall be five thousand dollars in the 2007-08 school year.
24 Thereafter, the annual bonus shall increase by inflation.

25 (2) Certificated instructional staff who have attained
26 certification from the national board for professional teaching
27 standards shall be eligible for bonuses in addition to that provided by
28 subsection (1) of this section if the individual is in an instructional
29 assignment in a school in which at least seventy percent of the
30 students qualify for the free and reduced-price lunch program.

31 (3) The amount of the additional bonus under subsection (2) of this
32 section for those meeting the qualifications of subsection (2) of this
33 section is five thousand dollars.

34 (4) The bonuses provided under this section are in addition to
35 compensation received under a district's salary schedule adopted in
36 accordance with RCW 28A.405.200 and shall not be included in

1 calculations of a district's average salary and associated salary
2 limitations under RCW 28A.400.200.

3 (5) The bonuses provided under this section shall be paid in a lump
4 sum amount.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act is necessary for the immediate
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
7 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
8 July 1, 2009.

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