
HOUSE BILL 2431

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Representatives Halpern, Chase, Goodman, and Santos

Prefiled 12/07/09. Read first time 01/11/10. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to a program of early learning under basic
2 education; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.150 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.150
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature finds that a critical factor in the eventual
7 successful outcome of a K-12 education is for students to begin school
8 ready, both intellectually and socially, to learn. The legislature
9 also finds that, due to a variety of factors, disadvantaged young
10 children need supplemental instruction in preschool to assure that they
11 have the opportunity to meaningfully participate and reach the
12 necessary levels of achievement in the regular program of basic
13 education. Therefore the legislature intends to establish a program of
14 early learning for at-risk children and intends to include this program
15 within the overall program of basic education.

16 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, with
17 the support and assistance from the department of early learning, shall
18 convene a working group to develop the basic education program of early
19 learning. The early learning working group shall be composed of

1 representatives from head start and early childhood education and
2 assistance program providers, school districts, thrive by five
3 Washington, and other stakeholders with expertise in early learning.
4 The working group may convene advisory subgroups on specific topics as
5 necessary to assure participation and input from a broad array of
6 diverse stakeholders.

7 (3) The early learning working group shall continue the preliminary
8 work of the department of early learning under RCW 43.215.125 to
9 develop a proposal for a statewide Washington head start program. The
10 working group shall:

11 (a) Recommend student eligibility criteria that focus on children
12 age three and four considered most at-risk;

13 (b) Develop options for a service delivery system that includes
14 school districts, educational service districts, community and
15 technical colleges, and public and private nonsectarian organizations;

16 (c) Develop options for shared governance that include the
17 superintendent of public instruction and the department of early
18 learning each with appropriate supervisory and administrative
19 responsibilities;

20 (d) Develop recommended parameters and minimum standards for the
21 program; and

22 (e) Continue development of a statewide kindergarten assessment
23 process.

24 (4) The early learning working group shall be monitored and
25 overseen by the quality education council established in RCW
26 28A.290.010 and shall submit progress reports to the council by
27 September 1, 2010, and September 1, 2011, with a final report by
28 September 1, 2012.

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