
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5918

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Kauffman, King, McDermott, Holmquist, Hobbs, and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 02/25/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to paraeducator tutors; adding a new section to
2 chapter 28A.400 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:

5 (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction
6 recognizes the accomplishments of classroom paraeducators to attain
7 professional growth development standards in order to increase
8 students' learning achievement; and

9 (b) There is a growing need to provide support for struggling
10 students who have been identified as not meeting state academic
11 standards. Highly trained paraeducators can have a significant impact
12 on those students who fall short of grade level standards but do not
13 meet the criteria to qualify for special education or Title I
14 resources. Increasing the knowledge and skills of paraeducators will
15 result in students reaching their highest potential.

16 (2) The purpose of this act is to develop standards for
17 paraeducators to increase their knowledge of learning disabilities,
18 addressing different learning styles, teaching strategies, and decoding
19 skills that will result in a positive impact on student achievement.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.400
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall adopt rules
4 establishing paraeducator tutor certification requirements.
5 Certification shall be for five-year periods.

6 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
7 develop:

8 (a) Paraeducator tutor certification standards, a certification
9 process, and certification requirements; and

10 (b) Professional development courses required for persons with
11 paraeducator tutor certification to maintain certification, in order to
12 maximize the effectiveness of providing resources for students to
13 achieve state standards and reach their highest possible academic
14 potential.

15 (3) Professional development courses developed under this section
16 must be available in many different formats, including online and at
17 the summer and winter institutes, for paraeducators to learn the
18 standards and acquire the skills necessary for paraeducator tutor
19 certification.

20 (4) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
21 develop a plan to provide incentives for people to pursue paraeducator
22 tutor certification. The plan shall be submitted to appropriate
23 committees of the legislature by December 1, 2009.

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