
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5941

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Oemig, Kastama, Jarrett, McAuliffe, Marr, Hobbs, and Tom)

READ FIRST TIME 02/19/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to comprehensive education data; adding new
2 sections to chapter 43.41 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 (1) It is the legislature's intent to establish a comprehensive
7 education data improvement system for financial, student, and educator
8 data. The objective of the system is to monitor student progress,
9 assure educator quality, monitor and analyze the costs of programs,
10 provide for financial integrity and accountability, and have the
11 capability to link across these various data components by student, by
12 class, by teacher, by school, by district, and statewide. Education
13 data systems must be flexible and able to adapt to evolving needs for
14 information, but there must be an objective and orderly data governance
15 process for determining when changes are needed and how to implement
16 them. It is the further intent of the legislature to provide
17 independent review and evaluation of a comprehensive education data
18 improvement system by assigning the review and monitoring

1 responsibilities to the education data center and the legislative
2 evaluation and accountability program committee.

3 (2) It is the legislature's intent that the education data
4 improvement system used by school districts and the state include but
5 not be limited to the following information and functionality:

6 (a) Comprehensive educator information, including grade level and
7 courses taught, building or location, program, job assignment, years of
8 experience, the institution of higher education from which the educator
9 obtained his or her degree, compensation, actual class size, mobility
10 of class population, socioeconomic data of class, number of languages
11 spoken by students, general resources available for curriculum and
12 other classroom needs, and number of instructional support staff in the
13 building;

14 (b) The capacity to link educator assignment information with
15 educator certification information such as certification number, type
16 of certification, route to certification, certification program, and
17 certification assessment or evaluation scores;

18 (c) Common coding of secondary courses and major areas of study at
19 the elementary level or coding linking course content to essential
20 academic learning requirements;

21 (d) Robust student information, including but not limited to
22 student characteristics, course and program enrollment, performance on
23 statewide and district summative and formative assessments to the
24 extent district assessments are used, and performance on college
25 readiness tests;

26 (e) A subset of student information elements to serve as a dropout
27 early warning system;

28 (f) The capacity to link educator information with student
29 information;

30 (g) A common, standardized structure for reporting the costs of
31 programs at the school and district level with a focus on the cost of
32 services delivered to students rather than accounting for expenditure
33 inputs;

34 (h) Separate accounting of state, federal, and local revenues and
35 costs;

36 (i) Information linking state funding formulas to school district
37 budgeting and accounting, including procedures for assuring that
38 financial data is accurate and auditable;

1 (j) The capacity to link program cost information with student
2 performance information to gauge the cost-effectiveness of programs;

3 (k) Information that is centrally accessible and updated regularly;
4 and

5 (1) An anonymous, nonidentifiable replicated copy of data that is
6 publicly accessible.

7 (3) It is the legislature's goal that all school districts have the
8 capability to collect state-identified common data and export it in a
9 standard format to support a statewide education data improvement
10 system under this section.

11 (4) It is the legislature's intent that the education data
12 improvement system be developed to provide the capability to make
13 reports as required under section 2 of this act available.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.41 RCW
15 to read as follows:

16 (1) A data governance group shall be established within the
17 educational data center to assist in the design and implementation of
18 an education data improvement system for financial, student, and
19 educator data.

20 (2) The data governance group shall include representatives of the
21 office of financial management, the office of the superintendent of
22 public instruction, the state auditor's office, the legislative
23 evaluation and accountability program committee, the joint legislative
24 audit and review committee, the professional educator standards board,
25 the state board of education, and school district staff. Additional
26 stakeholders may include representatives of the Washington school
27 information processing cooperative, educational service districts, the
28 Washington association of school business officers, the Washington
29 education association, the Washington association of school
30 administrators, the Washington state school directors' association,
31 school district information technology staff, and other interested
32 stakeholders with expertise in education data.

33 (3) The data governance group shall:

34 (a) Create a comprehensive needs requirement document detailing the
35 specific information and technical capacity needed by school districts
36 and the state to meet the legislature's expectations for a

1 comprehensive education data improvement system as described under
2 section 1 of this act;

3 (b) Conduct a gap analysis of current and planned information
4 compared to the needs requirement document, including an analysis of
5 the strengths and limitations of an education data system and programs
6 currently used by school districts and the state, and specifically the
7 gap analysis must look at the extent to which the existing data can be
8 transformed into canonical form and where existing software can be used
9 to meet the needs requirement document;

10 (c) Focus on financial and cost data necessary to support the new
11 K-12 financial models and funding formulas, including any necessary
12 changes to school district budgeting and accounting, and on assuring
13 the capacity to link data across financial, student, and educator
14 systems; and

15 (d) Define the operating rules and governance structure for K-12
16 data collections, ensuring that data systems are flexible and able to
17 adapt to evolving needs for information, within an objective and
18 orderly data governance process for determining when changes are needed
19 and how to implement them. The operating rules should delineate the
20 coordination, delegation, and escalation authority for data collection
21 issues, business rules, and performance goals for each K-12 data
22 collection system, including:

- 23 (i) Setting data collection priorities;
- 24 (ii) Defining and updating a standard data dictionary;
- 25 (iii) Ensuring data compliance with the data dictionary;
- 26 (iv) Ensuring data accuracy; and
- 27 (v) Establishing minimum standards for school, student, financial,
28 and teacher data systems.

29 (4) The work of the data governance group shall be periodically
30 reviewed by the educational data center and monitored by the
31 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee. The
32 governance group shall provide updates on its work as requested by the
33 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee.

34 (5) To the extent data is available, the office of the
35 superintendent of public instruction shall make the following minimum
36 reports available on the internet. The reports must either be run on
37 demand against current data, or, if a static report, must have been run
38 against data no older than three months old:

1 (a) The percentage of data compliance and data accuracy by school
2 district;

3 (b) The cost of K-12 basic education per student by school
4 district;

5 (c) The cost of K-12 special education services per student
6 receiving those services by school district;

7 (d) Aggregate growth on the statewide assessments as both an
8 absolute and a percentage of scale score change by district, by school,
9 and by teacher that can also be filtered by a student's length of full-
10 time enrollment within the school district;

11 (e) Number of K-12 students per classroom teacher on a per teacher
12 basis;

13 (f) Number of K-12 classroom teachers per student on a per student
14 basis;

15 (g) Percentage of a classroom teacher per student on a per student
16 basis; and

17 (h) The cost of K-12 education per student by school district
18 sorted by federal, state, and local dollars.

19 (6) The educational data center shall submit a preliminary report
20 to the legislature by November 15, 2009, including the analyses by the
21 data governance group under subsection (3) of this section and
22 preliminary options for addressing identified gaps. A final report,
23 including a proposed phase-in plan and preliminary cost estimates for
24 implementation of a comprehensive data improvement system for
25 financial, student, and educator data shall be submitted to the
26 legislature by September 1, 2010.

27 (7) All reports and data referenced in this section and section 1
28 of this act shall be made available in a manner consistent with the
29 technical requirements of the legislative evaluation and accountability
30 program committee and the education data center so that selected data
31 can be provided to the legislature, governor, school districts, and the
32 public.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The office of financial management shall
34 take all actions necessary to secure federal funds to implement this
35 act.

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