
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6629

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2010 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Oemig and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 02/04/10.

1 AN ACT Relating to highly capable students; creating a new section;
2 and providing an expiration date.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature intends to include the
5 program for highly capable students as part of the definition of basic
6 education effective September 1, 2011. Before the program is
7 implemented as a basic education program, work must be done to
8 establish standards, guidelines, and definitions for what constitutes
9 a basic education program for highly capable students who excel
10 intellectually, academically, and artistically and the appropriate
11 funding structure for such a program.

12 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
13 convene a technical working group with representatives who have
14 significant expertise in the education of highly capable and gifted
15 students. The working group may convene advisory subgroups on specific
16 topics as necessary to assure participation and input from a broad
17 array of diverse stakeholders. The working group must consult with and
18 seek input from nationally recognized experts; researchers and
19 academics on the unique educational, emotional, and social needs of

1 highly capable students and how to identify such students;
2 representatives of national organizations and associations for
3 educators of or advocates for highly capable students; school district
4 representatives who are educators, counselors, and classified school
5 employees involved with highly capable programs; parents of students
6 who have been identified as highly capable; representatives from the
7 federally recognized tribes; and representatives of cultural,
8 linguistic, and racial minority groups and the community of persons
9 with disabilities.

10 (3) The working group shall make recommendations to the quality
11 education council and to appropriate committees of the legislature by
12 December 1, 2010. The recommendations shall minimize
13 overrepresentation and underrepresentation of any particular
14 demographic or socioeconomic group relative to the presence of this
15 group in the overall student population, and shall include the
16 following:

17 (a) Standardized state-level identification procedures, standards,
18 criteria, and benchmarks, including a definition or definitions of a
19 highly capable student. Students who are both highly capable and are
20 students of color, are poor, or have a disability must be addressed;

21 (b) Appropriate programs and services that have been shown by
22 research and practice to be effective with highly capable students but
23 maintain options and flexibility for school districts, where possible;

24 (c) Program administration, management, and reporting requirements
25 for school districts;

26 (d) Appropriate educator qualifications, certification
27 requirements, and professional development and support for educators
28 and other staff who are involved in programs for highly capable
29 students;

30 (e) Self-evaluation models to be used by school districts to
31 determine the effectiveness of the program and services provided by the
32 school district for highly capable programs;

33 (f) An appropriate state-level funding structure; and

34 (g) Other topics deemed to be relevant by the working group.

35 (4) The recommendations shall take into consideration that access
36 to the program for highly capable students is not an individual

1 entitlement for any particular student.

2 (5) This section expires August 1, 2011.

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