
HOUSE BILL 1004

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Dickerson, Orwall, Haigh, Kagi, Roberts, Takko, Llias, Rolfes, Hurst, Kenney, Frockt, Goodman, and Appleton

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1 AN ACT Relating to social emotional learning in public schools;
2 adding new sections to chapter 28A.300 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 that basic
5 education instruction in public schools in Washington state should
6 include not only instruction in core academic skills, but also core
7 social emotional learning skills. Students with strong social
8 emotional learning skills do better in school. They are able to manage
9 their emotions and behavior, form and maintain healthy relationships,
10 and make positive and ethical decisions. Healthy relationships are key
11 to learning and essential for students' future success in the workplace
12 and in the community. These students have significantly better
13 attendance records, their classroom behavior is more constructive and
14 less often disruptive, they like school more, and they have better
15 grade point averages. They are also less likely to be suspended or
16 disciplined. The overall result is a more effective and successful
17 classroom experience for all students.

18 (2) Therefore schools should be encouraged and supported wherever
19 possible to incorporate social emotional learning skills into basic

1 education instruction through appropriate learning standards,
2 research-based curriculum and programs, classroom-based assessment, and
3 professional development for educators.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) To the extent funds are available in the
5 account created under section 3 of this act, the office of the
6 superintendent of public instruction shall promote and encourage
7 incorporation of social emotional learning into basic education
8 instruction in public schools. Activities may include:

9 (a) Disseminating information about promising curricula and model
10 programs in social emotional learning;

11 (b) Providing guidelines for how school districts can incorporate
12 culturally responsive social emotional learning into basic education
13 instruction at all grade levels;

14 (c) Referring school districts to high quality professional
15 development opportunities;

16 (d) Providing grants to school districts to implement research-
17 based curricula, professional development, and instruction in social
18 emotional learning; and

19 (e) Disseminating information on how schools can develop
20 partnerships with after-school programs to support students' social
21 emotional learning.

22 (2) For the purposes of this section, "social emotional learning"
23 includes age-appropriate culturally responsive behavioral and emotional
24 management, relationship skills, conflict resolution, interpersonal
25 communication, cooperation, decision making, and planning.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The social emotional learning public-private
27 partnership account is created in the custody of the state treasurer.
28 The purpose of the account is to support the activities of the office
29 of the superintendent of public instruction and school districts under
30 section 2 of this act. Revenues to the account include any
31 appropriations made by the legislature for the purposes of section 2 of
32 this act, federal funds, gifts or grants from the private sector or
33 foundations, and other sources. Only the superintendent of public
34 instruction or the superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures
35 from the account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under

1 chapter 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for
2 expenditures.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act are each added
4 to chapter 28A.300 RCW.

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