
HOUSE BILL 2215

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Klippert, McCoy, Hargrove, Hunt, Fagan, Billig, and Angel

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1 AN ACT Relating to waivers from school year requirements for
2 purposes of economy and efficiency; and amending RCW 28A.305.141.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.305.141 and 2009 c 543 s 2 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) In addition to waivers authorized under RCW 28A.305.140 and
7 28A.655.180, the state board of education may grant waivers from the
8 requirement for a one hundred eighty-day school year under RCW
9 28A.150.220 (~~and 28A.150.250~~) to school districts that propose to
10 operate one or more schools on a flexible calendar for purposes of
11 economy and efficiency as provided in this section. The requirement
12 under RCW 28A.150.220 that school districts offer (~~an annual average~~
13 ~~instructional hour offering of at least one thousand hours~~) minimum
14 instructional hour offerings shall not be waived.

15 (2) A school district seeking a waiver under this section must
16 submit an application that includes:

17 (a) A proposed calendar for the school day and school year that
18 demonstrates how the instructional hour requirement will be maintained;

1 (b) An explanation and estimate of the economies and efficiencies
2 to be gained from compressing the instructional hours into fewer than
3 one hundred eighty days;

4 (c) An explanation of how monetary savings from the proposal will
5 be redirected to support student learning;

6 (d) A summary of comments received at one or more public hearings
7 on the proposal and how concerns will be addressed;

8 (e) An explanation of the impact on students who rely upon free and
9 reduced-price school child nutrition services and the impact on the
10 ability of the child nutrition program to operate an economically
11 independent program;

12 (f) An explanation of the impact on the ability to recruit and
13 retain employees in education support positions;

14 (g) An explanation of the impact on students whose parents work
15 during the missed school day; and

16 (h) Other information that the state board of education may request
17 to assure that the proposed flexible calendar will not adversely affect
18 student learning.

19 (3) The state board of education shall adopt criteria to evaluate
20 waiver requests. ~~((No more than five districts may be granted
21 waivers.))~~ Waivers may be granted for up to three years, after which
22 time the district may seek a renewal of the waiver from the state
23 board. There is no limit on the number of renewals a district may
24 seek. After each school year, the state board of education shall
25 analyze empirical evidence to determine whether the reduction is
26 affecting student learning. If the state board of education determines
27 that student learning is adversely affected, the school district shall
28 discontinue the flexible calendar as soon as possible but not later
29 than the beginning of the next school year after the determination has
30 been made. ~~((All waivers expire August 31, 2014.~~

31 ~~(a) Two of the five waivers granted under this subsection shall be~~
32 ~~granted to school districts with student populations of less than one~~
33 ~~hundred fifty students.~~

34 ~~(b) Three of the five waivers granted under this subsection shall~~
35 ~~be granted to school districts with student populations of between one~~
36 ~~hundred fifty one and five hundred students.~~

37 ~~(4) The state board of education shall examine the waivers granted~~
38 ~~under this section and make a recommendation to the education~~

1 ~~committees of the legislature by December 15, 2013, regarding whether~~
2 ~~the waiver program should be continued, modified, or allowed to~~
3 ~~terminate. This recommendation should focus on whether the program~~
4 ~~resulted in improved student learning as demonstrated by empirical~~
5 ~~evidence. Such evidence includes, but is not limited to: Improved~~
6 ~~scores on the Washington assessment of student learning, results of the~~
7 ~~dynamic indicators of basic early literacy skills, student grades, and~~
8 ~~attendance.~~

9 ~~(5) This section expires August 31, 2014.)~~

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