
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5427

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senator McAuliffe; by request of Superintendent of Public Instruction)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/11.

1 AN ACT Relating to the assessment of students in state-funded full-
2 day kindergarten classrooms; amending RCW 28A.150.315; adding a new
3 section to chapter 43.215 RCW; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.150.315 and 2010 c 236 s 4 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Beginning with the 2007-08 school year, funding for voluntary
8 all-day kindergarten programs shall be phased-in beginning with schools
9 with the highest poverty levels, defined as those schools with the
10 highest percentages of students qualifying for free and reduced-price
11 lunch support in the prior school year. During the 2011-2013 biennium,
12 funding shall continue to be phased-in each year until full statewide
13 implementation of all-day kindergarten is achieved in the 2017-18
14 school year. Once a school receives funding for the all-day
15 kindergarten program, that school shall remain eligible for funding in
16 subsequent school years regardless of changes in the school's
17 percentage of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunches as
18 long as other program requirements are fulfilled. Additionally,

1 schools receiving all-day kindergarten program support shall agree to
2 the following conditions:

3 (a) Provide at least a one thousand-hour instructional program;

4 (b) Provide a curriculum that offers a rich, varied set of
5 experiences that assist students in:

6 (i) Developing initial skills in the academic areas of reading,
7 mathematics, and writing;

8 (ii) Developing a variety of communication skills;

9 (iii) Providing experiences in science, social studies, arts,
10 health and physical education, and a world language other than English;

11 (iv) Acquiring large and small motor skills;

12 (v) Acquiring social and emotional skills including successful
13 participation in learning activities as an individual and as part of a
14 group; and

15 (vi) Learning through hands-on experiences;

16 (c) Establish learning environments that are developmentally
17 appropriate and promote creativity;

18 (d) Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, identify the skills,
19 knowledge, and characteristics of kindergarten students at the
20 beginning of the school year in order to determine kindergarten
21 readiness and inform instruction to meet the needs of individual
22 students. To measure these skills, knowledge, and characteristics,
23 kindergarten teachers must use a kindergarten assessment process as
24 specified by the superintendent of public instruction, in consultation
25 with the department of early learning, and report the results to the
26 superintendent. The superintendent shall make the assessment process
27 available on a voluntary basis at the beginning of the 2011-12 school
28 year. School districts shall provide an opportunity for parents and
29 guardians to excuse their children from participating in the
30 kindergarten assessment process;

31 (e) Demonstrate strong connections and communication with early
32 learning community providers; and

33 ((+e)) (f) Participate in kindergarten program readiness
34 activities with early learning providers and parents.

35 (2) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose, the
36 superintendent of public instruction shall designate one or more school
37 districts to serve as resources and examples of best practices in
38 designing and operating a high-quality all-day kindergarten program.

1 Designated school districts shall serve as lighthouse programs and
2 provide technical assistance to other school districts in the initial
3 stages of implementing an all-day kindergarten program. Examples of
4 topics addressed by the technical assistance include strategic
5 planning, developing the instructional program and curriculum, working
6 with early learning providers to identify students and communicate with
7 parents, and developing kindergarten program readiness activities.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.215 RCW
9 to read as follows:

10 Before the implementation of a kindergarten assessment process as
11 provided in RCW 28A.150.315, the director shall seek input from the
12 University of Washington on a kindergarten assessment process that
13 addresses issues such as cultural responsiveness, accommodations and
14 usefulness for children with disabilities, parent involvement and
15 satisfaction, potential for improving instruction, and cost benefits.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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