
SENATE BILL 6247

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe and King

Read first time 01/16/12. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to the quality education council and the state
2 board of education; amending RCW 28A.175.075, 28A.290.010, 28A.290.020,
3 and 28A.400.201; adding a new section to chapter 28A.305 RCW; adding a
4 new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating a new section; and
5 recodifying RCW 28A.290.020.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that the duty
8 given to the quality education council to recommend and inform the
9 legislature on the ongoing implementation of the evolving program of
10 basic education and the financing to support it is a duty of utmost
11 importance and should not have had a time limit imposed upon it. The
12 legislature finds that the duty given to the quality education council
13 includes recommending an implementation schedule for the education
14 reforms enacted by the legislature in 2009 and developing goals and
15 priorities for the educational system. The legislature appreciates
16 that the quality education council has made recommendations to the
17 legislature regarding basic education issues but regrettably has not
18 yet provided a complete and comprehensive implementation for all of the
19 2009 reforms nor for the goals and priorities for the educational

1 system. The legislature acknowledges that these duties are detailed
2 and complex, require a focus that is time consuming, and that the
3 quality education council is limited in the number of times it can
4 meet. Because the legislature deems these tasks to be necessary to
5 assist the legislature in complying with its constitutional duty to
6 define and amply fund a program of basic education, the legislature
7 intends to transfer to a different state entity the tasks of
8 recommending an implementation schedule for the reforms, goals, and
9 priorities for the educational system and to report back to the quality
10 education council and the legislature.

11 The legislature acknowledges that the purpose of the state board of
12 education already includes providing strategic oversight of public
13 education, leadership for the system, and promotion of the basic
14 education student learning goals. Therefore, the legislature
15 anticipates that the board can reasonably provide the quality education
16 council and the legislature with assistance regarding recommendations
17 for the implementation of the 2009 reforms and the financing to support
18 it.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.305
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 In addition to any other powers and duties provided by law, the
22 state board of education shall:

23 (1) Recommend to the quality education council and the legislature
24 an implementation schedule for the concurrent phase-in by the
25 legislature of the changes to the instructional program of basic
26 education and the implementation of the funding formulas and
27 allocations to support the new instructional program of basic education
28 as established under RCW 28A.150.200, 28A.150.220, and 28A.150.260.
29 Full implementation of the phase-in schedule must be completed by
30 September 1, 2018;

31 (2) Recommend to the quality education council an implementation
32 schedule for the phased-in implementation of the new distribution
33 formula for allocating state funds to school districts for the
34 transportation of students to and from school, in accordance with RCW
35 28A.160.192;

36 (3) Develop strategic recommendations on the program of basic
37 education for the common schools. The board must take into

1 consideration the capacity report produced under RCW 28A.300.172 and
2 the availability of data and the progress of implementing the data
3 systems required under RCW 28A.655.210. Any recommendations for
4 modifications to the program of basic education must be based on an
5 educational policy reason and evidence that the programs effectively
6 support student learning. The board shall update the statewide
7 strategic recommendations every four years. The recommendations are
8 intended to:

9 (a) Inform future educational policy and funding decisions of the
10 legislature and governor;

11 (b) Identify measurable goals and priorities for the educational
12 system in Washington state for a ten-year time period, including the
13 goals of basic education and ongoing strategies for coordinating
14 statewide efforts to eliminate the achievement gap and reduce student
15 dropout rates. The board shall work collaboratively with the
16 educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee to
17 develop the strategies to close the achievement gap; and

18 (c) Enable the state of Washington to continue to implement an
19 evolving program of basic education; and

20 (4) Submit an annual report to the quality education council, the
21 governor, and the legislature by January 1st, detailing its
22 recommendations. The first report due to the legislature by January 1,
23 2013, must include a complete and comprehensive implementation schedule
24 as required under subsections (1) and (2) of this section and the
25 initial measurable goals and priorities for the educational system the
26 initial measurable goals and priorities for the educational system in
27 Washington.

28 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.175.075 and 2010 c 243 s 4 are each amended to
29 read as follows:

30 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
31 establish a state-level building bridges work group that includes K-12
32 and state agencies that work with youth who have dropped out or are at
33 risk of dropping out of school. The following agencies shall appoint
34 representatives to the work group: The office of the superintendent of
35 public instruction, the workforce training and education coordinating
36 board, the department of early learning, the employment security
37 department, the state board for community and technical colleges, the

1 department of health, the community mobilization office, and the
2 children's services and behavioral health and recovery divisions of the
3 department of social and health services. The work group should also
4 consist of one representative from each of the following agencies and
5 organizations: A statewide organization representing career and
6 technical education programs including skill centers; the juvenile
7 courts or the office of juvenile justice, or both; the Washington
8 association of prosecuting attorneys; the Washington state office of
9 public defense; accredited institutions of higher education; the
10 educational service districts; the area workforce development councils;
11 parent and educator associations; (~~achievement~~) educational
12 opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee; office of the
13 education ombudsman; local school districts; agencies or organizations
14 that provide services to special education students; community
15 organizations serving youth; federally recognized tribes and urban
16 tribal centers; each of the major political caucuses of the senate and
17 house of representatives; and the minority commissions.

18 (2) To assist and enhance the work of the building bridges programs
19 established in RCW 28A.175.025, the state-level work group shall:

20 (a) Identify and make recommendations to the legislature for the
21 reduction of fiscal, legal, and regulatory barriers that prevent
22 coordination of program resources across agencies at the state and
23 local level;

24 (b) Develop and track performance measures and benchmarks for each
25 partner agency or organization across the state including performance
26 measures and benchmarks based on student characteristics and outcomes
27 specified in RCW 28A.175.035(1)(e); and

28 (c) Identify research-based and emerging best practices regarding
29 prevention, intervention, and retrieval programs.

30 (3)(a) The work group shall report to the quality education
31 council, the state board of education, appropriate committees of the
32 legislature, and the governor on an annual basis beginning December 1,
33 2007, with proposed strategies for building K-12 dropout prevention,
34 intervention, and reengagement systems in local communities throughout
35 the state including, but not limited to, recommendations for
36 implementing emerging best practices, needed additional resources, and
37 eliminating barriers.

38 (b) By September 15, 2010, the work group shall report on:

1 (i) A recommended state goal and annual state targets for the
2 percentage of students graduating from high school;

3 (ii) A recommended state goal and annual state targets for the
4 percentage of youth who have dropped out of school who should be
5 reengaged in education and be college and work ready;

6 (iii) Recommended funding for supporting career guidance and the
7 planning and implementation of K-12 dropout prevention, intervention,
8 and reengagement systems in school districts and a plan for phasing the
9 funding into the program of basic education, beginning in the 2011-2013
10 biennium; and

11 (iv) A plan for phasing in the expansion of the current school
12 improvement planning program to include state-funded, dropout-focused
13 school improvement technical assistance for school districts in
14 significant need of improvement regarding high school graduation rates.

15 (4) State agencies in the building bridges work group shall work
16 together, wherever feasible, on the following activities to support
17 school/family/community partnerships engaged in building K-12 dropout
18 prevention, intervention, and reengagement systems:

19 (a) Providing opportunities for coordination and flexibility of
20 program eligibility and funding criteria;

21 (b) Providing joint funding;

22 (c) Developing protocols and templates for model agreements on
23 sharing records and data;

24 (d) Providing joint professional development opportunities that
25 provide knowledge and training on:

26 (i) Research-based and promising practices;

27 (ii) The availability of programs and services for vulnerable
28 youth; and

29 (iii) Cultural competence.

30 (5) The building bridges work group shall make recommendations to
31 the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2010, on a state-level
32 and regional infrastructure for coordinating services for vulnerable
33 youth. Recommendations must address the following issues:

34 (a) Whether to adopt an official conceptual approach or framework
35 for all entities working with vulnerable youth that can support
36 coordinated planning and evaluation;

37 (b) The creation of a performance-based management system,

1 including outcomes, indicators, and performance measures relating to
2 vulnerable youth and programs serving them, including accountability
3 for the dropout issue;

4 (c) The development of regional and/or county-level multipartner
5 youth consortia with a specific charge to assist school districts and
6 local communities in building K-12 comprehensive dropout prevention,
7 intervention, and reengagement systems;

8 (d) The development of integrated or school-based one-stop shopping
9 for services that would:

10 (i) Provide individualized attention to the neediest youth and
11 prioritized access to services for students identified by a dropout
12 early warning and intervention data system;

13 (ii) Establish protocols for coordinating data and services,
14 including getting data release at time of intake and common assessment
15 and referral processes; and

16 (iii) Build a system of single case managers across agencies;

17 (e) Launching a statewide media campaign on increasing the high
18 school graduation rate; and

19 (f) Developing a statewide database of available services for
20 vulnerable youth.

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.290.010 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 21 s 54 are each
22 amended to read as follows:

23 (1) The quality education council is created to recommend and
24 inform the ongoing implementation by the legislature of an evolving
25 program of basic education and the financing necessary to support such
26 program. (~~The council shall develop strategic recommendations on the~~
27 ~~program of basic education for the common schools. The council shall~~
28 ~~take into consideration the capacity report produced under RCW~~
29 ~~28A.300.172 and the availability of data and progress of implementing~~
30 ~~the data systems required under RCW 28A.655.210.)) Any recommendations
31 for modifications to the program of basic education shall be based on
32 an educational policy reason and evidence that the programs effectively
33 support student learning. (~~The council shall update the statewide~~
34 ~~strategic recommendations every four years. The recommendations of the~~
35 ~~council are intended to:~~~~

36 (a) ~~Inform future educational policy and funding decisions of the~~
37 ~~legislature and governor;~~

1 ~~(b) Identify measurable goals and priorities for the educational~~
2 ~~system in Washington state for a ten-year time period, including the~~
3 ~~goals of basic education and ongoing strategies for coordinating~~
4 ~~statewide efforts to eliminate the achievement gap and reduce student~~
5 ~~dropout rates; and~~

6 ~~(c) Enable the state of Washington to continue to implement an~~
7 ~~evolving program of basic education.)~~

8 (2) The council may request updates and progress reports from the
9 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state board of
10 education, the professional educator standards board, and the
11 department of early learning on the work of the agencies as well as
12 educational working groups established by the legislature. The council
13 may use these reports when making the council's annual report to the
14 legislature.

15 (3) The chair of the council shall be selected from the
16 councilmembers. The council shall be composed of the following
17 members:

18 (a) Four members of the house of representatives, with two members
19 representing each of the major caucuses and appointed by the speaker of
20 the house of representatives;

21 (b) Four members of the senate, with two members representing each
22 of the major caucuses and appointed by the president of the senate;

23 (c) One representative each from the office of the governor, office
24 of the superintendent of public instruction, state board of education,
25 professional educator standards board, and department of early
26 learning; and

27 (d) One nonlegislative representative from the educational
28 opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee established
29 under RCW 28A.300.136, to be selected by the members of the committee.

30 (4) The council shall meet no more than four days a year.

31 (5)~~((a))~~ The council shall submit an ~~((initial))~~ annual report to
32 the governor and the legislature by January 1~~st~~~~(, 2010, detailing its~~
33 ~~recommendations, including recommendations for resolving issues or~~
34 ~~decisions requiring legislative action during the 2010 legislative~~
35 ~~session, and recommendations for any funding necessary to continue~~
36 ~~development and implementation of chapter 548, Laws of 2009.~~

37 ~~(b) The initial report shall, at a minimum, include:~~

1 ~~(i) Consideration of how to establish a statewide beginning teacher~~
2 ~~mentoring and support system;~~

3 ~~(ii) Recommendations for a program of early learning for at-risk~~
4 ~~children;~~

5 ~~(iii) A recommended schedule for the concurrent phase in of the~~
6 ~~changes to the instructional program of basic education and the~~
7 ~~implementation of the funding formulas and allocations to support the~~
8 ~~new instructional program of basic education as established under~~
9 ~~chapter 548, Laws of 2009. The phase in schedule shall have full~~
10 ~~implementation completed by September 1, 2018; and~~

11 ~~(iv) A recommended schedule for phased-in implementation of the new~~
12 ~~distribution formula for allocating state funds to school districts for~~
13 ~~the transportation of students to and from school, with phase in~~
14 ~~beginning no later than September 1, 2013.~~

15 ~~(6) The council shall submit a report to the legislature by January~~
16 ~~1, 2012, detailing its recommendations for a comprehensive plan for a~~
17 ~~voluntary program of early learning. Before submitting the report, the~~
18 ~~council shall seek input from the early learning advisory council~~
19 ~~created in RCW 43.215.090.~~

20 ~~(7) The council shall submit a report to the governor and the~~
21 ~~legislature by December 1, 2010, that includes:~~

22 ~~(a) Recommendations for specific strategies, programs, and funding,~~
23 ~~including funding allocations through the funding distribution formula~~
24 ~~in RCW 28A.150.260, that are designed to close the achievement gap and~~
25 ~~increase the high school graduation rate in Washington public schools.~~
26 ~~The council shall consult with the educational opportunity gap~~
27 ~~oversight and accountability committee and the building bridges work~~
28 ~~group in developing its recommendations; and~~

29 ~~(b) Recommendations for assuring adequate levels of state-funded~~
30 ~~classified staff to support essential school and district services))~~
31 ~~each year.~~

32 ~~((+8))~~ (6) The council shall be staffed by the office of the
33 superintendent of public instruction and the office of financial
34 management. Additional staff support shall be provided by the state
35 entities with representatives on the council. Senate committee
36 services and the house of representatives office of program research
37 may provide additional staff support.

1 ~~((+9))~~ (7) Legislative members of the council shall serve without
2 additional compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses in
3 accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the council
4 or on official business authorized by the council. Nonlegislative
5 members of the council may be reimbursed for travel expenses in
6 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

7 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.290.020 and 2010 c 236 s 5 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 (1) The legislature intends to continue to redefine the
10 instructional program of education under RCW 28A.150.220 that fulfills
11 the obligations and requirements of Article IX of the state
12 Constitution. The funding formulas under RCW 28A.150.260 to support
13 the instructional program shall be implemented to the extent the
14 technical details of the formula have been established and according to
15 an implementation schedule to be adopted by the legislature. The
16 object of the schedule is to assure that any increases in funding
17 allocations are timely, predictable, and occur concurrently with any
18 increases in program or instructional requirements. It is the intent
19 of the legislature that no increased programmatic or instructional
20 expectations be imposed upon schools or school districts without an
21 accompanying increase in resources as necessary to support those
22 increased expectations.

23 (2) The office of financial management, with assistance and support
24 from the office of the superintendent of public instruction, shall
25 convene a technical working group to:

26 (a) Develop the details of the funding formulas under RCW
27 28A.150.260;

28 (b) Recommend to the legislature an implementation schedule for
29 phasing-in any increased program or instructional requirements
30 concurrently with increases in funding for adoption by the legislature;
31 and

32 (c) Examine possible sources of revenue to support increases in
33 funding allocations and present options to the legislature and the
34 quality education council created in RCW 28A.290.010 for consideration.

35 (3) The working group shall include representatives of the
36 legislative evaluation and accountability program committee, school
37 district and educational service district financial managers, the

1 Washington association of school business officers, the Washington
2 education association, the Washington association of school
3 administrators, the association of Washington school principals, the
4 Washington state school directors' association, the public school
5 employees of Washington, and other interested stakeholders with
6 expertise in education finance. The working group may convene advisory
7 subgroups on specific topics as necessary to assure participation and
8 input from a broad array of diverse stakeholders.

9 (4) The working group shall be monitored and overseen by the
10 legislature and the quality education council established in RCW
11 28A.290.010. The working group shall submit its recommendations to the
12 legislature by December 1, 2009.

13 (5) After the 2009 report to the legislature, the (~~office of~~
14 ~~financial management~~) state board of education and the office of the
15 superintendent of public instruction (~~shall~~) may periodically
16 reconvene the working group to monitor and provide advice and technical
17 assistance on further development and implementation of the funding
18 formulas under RCW 28A.150.260 (~~and provide technical assistance to~~
19 ~~the ongoing work of the quality education council~~)).

20 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.400.201 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 43 s 468 are each
21 amended to read as follows:

22 (1) The legislature recognizes that providing students with the
23 opportunity to access a world-class educational system depends on our
24 continuing ability to provide students with access to world-class
25 educators. The legislature also understands that continuing to attract
26 and retain the highest quality educators will require increased
27 investments. The legislature intends to enhance the current salary
28 allocation model and recognizes that changes to the current model
29 cannot be imposed without great deliberation and input from teachers,
30 administrators, and classified employees. Therefore, it is the intent
31 of the legislature to begin the process of developing an enhanced
32 salary allocation model that is collaboratively designed to ensure the
33 rationality of any conclusions regarding what constitutes adequate
34 compensation.

35 (2) Beginning July 1, 2011, the office of the superintendent of
36 public instruction, in collaboration with the human resources director
37 in the office of financial management, shall convene a technical

1 working group to recommend the details of an enhanced salary allocation
2 model that aligns state expectations for educator development and
3 certification with the compensation system and establishes
4 recommendations for a concurrent implementation schedule. In addition
5 to any other details the technical working group deems necessary, the
6 technical working group shall make recommendations on the following:

7 (a) How to reduce the number of tiers within the existing salary
8 allocation model;

9 (b) How to account for labor market adjustments;

10 (c) How to account for different geographic regions of the state
11 where districts may encounter difficulty recruiting and retaining
12 teachers;

13 (d) The role of and types of bonuses available;

14 (e) Ways to accomplish salary equalization over a set number of
15 years; and

16 (f) Initial fiscal estimates for implementing the recommendations
17 including a recognition that staff on the existing salary allocation
18 model would have the option to grandfather in permanently to the
19 existing schedule.

20 (3) As part of its work, the technical working group shall conduct
21 or contract for a preliminary comparative labor market analysis of
22 salaries and other compensation for school district employees to be
23 conducted and shall include the results in any reports to the
24 legislature. For the purposes of this subsection, "salaries and other
25 compensation" includes average base salaries, average total salaries,
26 average employee basic benefits, and retirement benefits.

27 (4) The analysis required under subsection (1) of this section
28 must:

29 (a) Examine salaries and other compensation for teachers, other
30 certificated instructional staff, principals, and other building-level
31 certificated administrators, and the types of classified employees for
32 whom salaries are allocated;

33 (b) Be calculated at a statewide level that identifies labor
34 markets in Washington through the use of data from the United States
35 bureau of the census and the bureau of labor statistics; and

36 (c) Include a comparison of salaries and other compensation to the
37 appropriate labor market for at least the following subgroups of

1 educators: Beginning teachers and types of educational staff
2 associates.

3 (5) The working group shall include representatives of the office
4 of financial management, the professional educator standards board, the
5 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the Washington
6 education association, the Washington association of school
7 administrators, the association of Washington school principals, the
8 Washington state school directors' association, the public school
9 employees of Washington, and other interested stakeholders with
10 appropriate expertise in compensation related matters. The working
11 group may convene advisory subgroups on specific topics as necessary to
12 assure participation and input from a broad array of diverse
13 stakeholders.

14 (6) The working group shall be monitored and overseen by the
15 legislature (~~and~~), the quality education council created in RCW
16 28A.290.010, and the state board of education. The working group shall
17 make an initial report to the legislature by June 30, 2012, and shall
18 include in its report recommendations for whether additional further
19 work of the group is necessary.

20 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** RCW 28A.290.020 is recodified as a section
21 in chapter 28A.300 RCW.

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