

SB 6424 - H COMM AMD  
By Committee on Education

ADOPTED 03/06/2014

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that:

4 (a) The study of world languages in elementary and secondary  
5 schools should be encouraged because it contributes to students'  
6 cognitive development and to the national economy and security;

7 (b) Proficiency in multiple languages enables Washington to  
8 participate more effectively in the current global political, social,  
9 and economic context;

10 (c) The benefits to employers of having employees who are fluent in  
11 more than one language are clear: Increased access to expanding  
12 markets, better service of customers' needs, and expanded trading  
13 opportunities with other countries; and

14 (d) Protecting the state's rich heritage of multiple cultures and  
15 languages, as well as building trust and understanding across the  
16 multiple cultures and languages of diverse communities, requires  
17 multilingual communication skills.

18 (2) Therefore, the legislature's intent is to promote and recognize  
19 linguistic proficiency and cultural literacy in one or more world  
20 languages in addition to English through the establishment of a  
21 Washington state seal of biliteracy.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300  
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 (1) The Washington state seal of biliteracy is established to  
25 recognize public high school graduates who have attained a high level  
26 of proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in one or more world  
27 languages in addition to English. School districts are encouraged to  
28 award the seal of biliteracy to graduating high school students who  
29 meet the criteria established by the office of the superintendent of

1 public instruction under this section. Participating school districts  
2 shall place a notation on a student's high school diploma and high  
3 school transcript indicating that the student has earned the seal.

4 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall  
5 adopt rules establishing criteria for award of the Washington state  
6 seal of biliteracy. The criteria must require a student to demonstrate  
7 proficiency in English by meeting state high school graduation  
8 requirements in English, including through state assessments and  
9 credits, and proficiency in one or more world languages other than  
10 English. The criteria must permit a student to demonstrate proficiency  
11 in another world language through multiple methods including nationally  
12 or internationally recognized language proficiency tests and  
13 competency-based world language credits awarded under the model policy  
14 adopted by the Washington state school directors' association.

15 (3) For the purposes of this section, a world language other than  
16 English must include American sign language and Native American  
17 languages.

18 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.125 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 130 are each  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (1) The superintendent of public instruction, in consultation with  
21 the four-year institutions as defined in RCW 28B.76.020, the state  
22 board for community and technical colleges, and the workforce training  
23 and education coordinating board, shall develop for use by all public  
24 school districts a standardized high school transcript. The  
25 superintendent shall establish clear definitions for the terms  
26 "credits" and "hours" so that school programs operating on the quarter,  
27 semester, or trimester system can be compared.

28 (2) The standardized high school transcript shall include a  
29 notation of whether the student has earned a certificate of individual  
30 achievement or a certificate of academic achievement.

31 (3) The standardized high school transcript may include a notation  
32 of whether the student has earned the Washington state seal of  
33 biliteracy established under section 2 of this act.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** By December 1, 2017, the office of the  
35 superintendent of public instruction shall submit a report to the  
36 education committees of the legislature that compares the number of

1 students awarded the Washington state seal of biliteracy in the  
2 previous two school years and the languages spoken by those students,  
3 to the number of students enrolled or previously enrolled in the  
4 transitional bilingual instruction program and the languages spoken by  
5 those students. The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
6 shall also report the methods used by students to demonstrate  
7 proficiency for the Washington state seal of biliteracy, and describe  
8 how the office of the superintendent of public instruction plans to  
9 increase the number of possible methods for students to demonstrate  
10 proficiency, particularly in world languages that are not widely  
11 spoken."

12 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Requires the office of the superintendent of public instruction (OSPI) to submit a report to the Legislature that compares the number of students awarded the Washington state seal of biliteracy (Seal) in the previous two school years and the languages spoken by those students, to the number of students enrolled or previously enrolled in the transitional bilingual instruction program and the languages spoken by those students. The OSPI must also report the methods used by students to demonstrate proficiency for the Seal, and describe how the OSPI plans to increase the number of possible methods for students to demonstrate proficiency, particularly in world languages that are not widely spoken.

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