

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5330

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Early Learning & K-12 Education, February 21, 2013

**Title:** An act relating to improved student achievement and student outcomes.

**Brief Description:** Improving student achievement and student outcomes.

**Sponsors:** Senators Hargrove, Shin and Hill.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 2/04/13, 2/21/13 [DPS-WM, DNP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5330 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass and be referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

Signed by Senators Litzow, Chair; Dammeier, Vice Chair; McAuliffe, Ranking Member; Rolfes, Assistant Ranking Member; Billig, Cleveland, Fain, Hill, Mullet and Rivers.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Brown.

**Staff:** Susan Mielke (786-7422)

**Background:** Washington Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (WaKIDS). WaKIDS is a process that includes: the Whole-Child Observational Assessment, which provides kindergarten teachers information about the social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and linguistic development of the children in their classrooms; and the Family Connection, a meeting between the kindergarten teacher with students' families. The assessment is administered three times a year in the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP); and has been administered in state-funded full-day kindergarten programs since the 2012-13 school year. The kindergarten administration of WaKIDS is funded with state funds, a federal grant, and private funding. The 2011-13 operating budget provided \$900,000 for WaKIDS to support the implementation of the inventory and for training of school district staff. The Department of Early Learning (DEL) was awarded a federal Race to the Top grant for early learning that specifies that all incoming kindergarten students will be reviewed under the same assessment process, using WaKIDS, statewide by 2014-15. The work group

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created in 2012, is to make annual recommendations regarding implementation of WaKIDS. The 2011-13 biennial budget provided \$900,000, to support the development and implementation of inventory and staffing at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for oversight of the program and training of school district staff. In 2012 the Legislature provided an additional \$1 million for implementation of WaKIDS.

Parent Involvement Coordinator. Currently the prototypical school funding allocation model has parent involvement coordinator listed as one of the specified staff positions used to determine how to fund public schools, but the value in the model is zero. The Quality Education Council made recommendations to the Legislature in January 2011, to set the funding values at 1.0 full-time equivalent coordinator for the prototypical elementary school; 1.0 full-time equivalent for the prototypical middle school; and 0.8 for the prototypical high school. The 2013 report of the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee includes a recommendation that 1.0 full-time equivalent coordinator be allocated per prototypical elementary, middle, and high school.

Teacher Mentor Program. In 2009 the Legislature redesigned the teacher assistance program to create the Beginning Educator Support Team (BEST), which is a grant program to provide support for the development of early career educators. The 2011-12 grant recipients included two school districts and three regional consortia, serving 26 additional school districts. The 2011-13 biennial operating budget provided \$2 million for the BEST program, which was a reduction of 50 percent, from the prior biennium.

Learning Assistance Program (LAP). LAP provides remedial academic instruction to students in kindergarten through grade twelve who score below grade level in reading, writing, and mathematics on statewide or local school district assessments. Services and activities that may be supported by LAP include outreach activities and support for parents of participating students. The Legislature appropriated \$255 million in state funds for LAP in the 2011-13 biennium.

Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program (TBIP). TBIP assists students in achieving competency in English when they are from homes where English is not the primary language. School districts must provide in-service training for teachers, counselors, and other staff who are involved in the district's TBIP.

Building Bridges Grants. In 2007 the Legislature created a Building Bridges grant program to award grants to local partnerships of schools, families, and communities to begin phasing in the statewide comprehensive dropout prevention, intervention, and retrieval system. Currently there are three Building Bridges grantees that serve students in Granite Falls School District, ESD 113–Mason County, and Vancouver School District that each received \$75,000.

**Summary of Bill (Recommended Substitute):** WaKIDS. Schools may use up to three school days at the beginning of the school year to meet with parents and families as part of the WaKIDS process and still receive basic education funding for those days.

Parent Involvement Coordinator. The funding values for the parent involvement coordinator in the prototypical school funding allocation model are set at one full-time equivalent family

involvement coordinator for each prototypical elementary and middle school. The state funds provided for the coordinators must be spent to employ a parent involvement coordinator and to implement parent involvement programs that are shown by research to be successful.

Mentor Program. A support program for novice and probationary teachers is created to provide mentor support for first through third year teachers and teachers who are on probation. The program must include a paid orientation, assignment of a qualified mentor who must be a National Board for Professional Training Standards (NBPTS) certificate holder, development of a professional growth plan for each mentored teacher, release time for mentors and new teachers to work together, and teacher observation with accomplished peers.

LAP. LAP is expanded to assist students who exhibit behavior that is not conducive to their own learning or the learning of other students. OSPI must recommend a research-based, standardized screening tool to be used by school districts to identify students with behavior problems to participate in LAP. Programs used in LAP must be included on the inventory of effective practices, activities, and programs developed by the Washington Institute of Public Policy (WSIPP) unless approved by OSPI. The inventory is required when the school district can show that the students in the program experienced an increase in academic achievement. WSIPP must update the inventory every two years. OSPI must monitor school district fidelity in implementing the programs on the inventory. School districts must report to OSPI: student entrance and exit data; the amount of academic growth gained by each student and the number of students that gained at least one year of academic growth; and the specific practices, activities, and programs used by each school building that receives LAP funding. LAP funds may be used to employ a parent involvement coordinator.

TBIP. Schools with more than 15 percent language diversity in the student population must be allocated funding to provide research-based professional development to all educators in the school regarding successful, best-practice strategies for English language learner instruction. OSPI must develop or identify research-based or evidence-based professional development of effective strategies for English language learner instruction.

Building Bridges Grants. School districts with the highest levels of truancy or those that receive Readiness to Learn grants, and nonprofits, must receive priority when Building Bridges grants are awarded.

Longitudinal Data Pilot Program. A pilot program for one school district is created to provide support for the district to use longitudinal data.

**EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Recommended Substitute):** Maintains the WaKIDS workgroup; the mentor program, although removes the requirement for mentors to have National Board certification; the expansion of LAP; the provisions addressing TBIP; and the priority for Building Bridges grants for school districts with high levels of truancy. Removes the intent section, the changes to class size reduction and full-day kindergarten implementation, and changes to the salary allocation schedule and to supplemental contracts. Authorizes schools to use three days to implement WaKIDS instead of five. Adds a pilot program for one school

district to use longitudinal data. Some nonprofits, and school districts that receive Readiness to Learn grants receive priority for Building Bridges grants. Maintains the level of funding for parent involvement coordinators at one for each elementary and middle school but removes the one coordinator at high schools. Requires that the state funds provided for parent involvement coordinators must be spent to employ a parent involvement coordinator and to implement parent involvement programs that have been shown by research to be successful.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill:** PRO: It is important to deliver research-based practices into the schools and to make sure it is implemented with fidelity. The focus should be on what individual students need and not just implement blanket programs for all students that are not meaningful for some students, especially when resources are scarce. A quality teacher is important for student success but if that teacher must deal with students who have behavior problems then it takes away from the teacher's ability to provide quality teaching to the other students. There is great research that shows that parent involvement is important for a student's educational success. We can encourage and assist parents to be involved.

OTHER: There are a lot of things to like in this bill but there are some things that raise concerns. The extra days provided for implementing WaKIDS is very helpful. Fully implementing WaKIDS by 2014-15 is a positive move and it aligns with DEL's federal Race to the Top grant. Providing professional development for schools that have a high level of English Language Learners is great. Different children do need different levels of support in their early years. However, full-day kindergarten is good for all students, whether they are gifted or struggling, and it is part of the definition of basic education. If you are going to target delivery of full-day kindergarten than other factors, not only socio-economic needs, should be used to determine how to target the program. WaKIDS is very difficult to do if you are a half time kindergarten teacher, so requiring all kindergarten teachers to administer it will be difficult. Research has shown that lowering class size in early years is helpful, but this only addresses grades K-2, currently K-3 class size reduction is in the definition of basic education. The new salary schedule could result in salary reductions, which is a concern. The family involvement coordinators are important but first the state should fund other things to meet the *McCleary* court requirements of funding basic education.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Senator Hargrove, prime sponsor.

OTHER: Randy Dorn, State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Amy Blondin, DEL.