
HOUSE BILL 1476

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representatives Dahlquist, Magendanz, Zeiger, Smith, Hargrove, Fagan, Buys, and Scott

Read first time 01/28/13. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a performance-based grading system
2 for schools and school districts; amending RCW 28A.657.110; and
3 creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state board
6 of education is directed to establish an accountability index for
7 schools and districts that is "fair, consistent, and transparent."
8 However, the legislature further finds that transparency is an elusive
9 quality, and that the public would best be served by an accountability
10 index that is clear, plain, and uses the commonly understood
11 terminology of a letter A through F grading system to indicate the
12 performance of schools and school districts.

13 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.657.110 and 2010 c 235 s 111 are each amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (1) The state board of education shall continue to refine the
16 development of an accountability framework that creates a unified
17 system of support for challenged schools, that aligns with basic

1 education, increases the level of support based upon the magnitude of
2 need, and uses data for decisions.

3 (2) The state board of education shall develop an accountability
4 index to identify schools and school districts for recognition, for
5 continuous improvement, and for additional state support. The index
6 shall be based on criteria that are fair, consistent, and transparent.
7 Performance shall be measured using multiple outcomes and indicators
8 including, but not limited to, graduation rates and results from
9 statewide assessments. The index shall be developed in such a way as
10 to be easily understood by both employees within the schools and school
11 districts, as well as parents and community members. The index must
12 identify five categories of schools and school districts, which must be
13 labeled using a letter A through F grading system based on relative
14 performance on the criteria used in the index. It is the legislature's
15 intent that the index provide feedback to schools and school districts
16 to self-assess their progress, and enable the identification of schools
17 with (~~exemplary student~~) A-level performance and those that need
18 assistance to overcome challenges in order to achieve (~~exemplary~~
19 ~~student~~) A-level performance.

20 (3) The state board of education, in cooperation with the office of
21 the superintendent of public instruction, shall annually recognize
22 schools (~~for exemplary~~) with A-level performance as measured on the
23 state board of education accountability index. The state board of
24 education shall have ongoing collaboration with the (~~achievement~~)
25 educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee
26 regarding the measures used to measure the closing of the achievement
27 gaps and the recognition provided to the school districts for closing
28 the achievement gaps.

29 (4) In coordination with the superintendent of public instruction,
30 the state board of education shall seek approval from the United States
31 department of education for use of the accountability index and the
32 state system of support, assistance, and intervention, to replace the
33 federal accountability system under P.L. 107-110, the no child left
34 behind act of 2001. The state system of support, assistance, and
35 intervention must be designed to reflect the five categories of schools
36 and school districts in the A through F letter grading system.

37 (5) The state board of education shall work with the education data
38 center established within the office of financial management and the

1 technical working group established in section 112, chapter 548, Laws
2 of 2009 to determine the feasibility of using the prototypical funding
3 allocation model as not only a tool for allocating resources to schools
4 and school districts but also as a tool for schools and school
5 districts to report to the state legislature and the state board of
6 education on how the state resources received are being used.

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