
SENATE BILL 5649

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Senators Rolfes, McAuliffe, Billig, Mullet, Frockt, and Murray

Read first time 02/06/13. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to using the collaborative schools process for
2 required action districts that continue to struggle to improve student
3 academic achievement; amending RCW 28A.630.101, 28A.630.103,
4 28A.630.104, 28A.630.105, 28A.630.107, 28A.657.020, 28A.657.090,
5 28A.657.100, and 28A.657.125; adding a new section to chapter 28A.657
6 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

8 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.630.101 and 2012 c 53 s 1 are each amended to read
9 as follows:

10 (1) The legislature finds that:

11 (a) There are more low-achieving schools in the state seeking
12 assistance in improving the academic outcomes of students than are
13 being assisted using current school improvement initiatives;

14 (b) Promising educator development programs provide intensive
15 school-based, residency, and mentor experiences for those preparing for
16 careers in teaching and educational leadership; and

17 (c) Collaboration among colleges of education, schools, and
18 communities offers unique opportunities to leverage resources, foster

1 innovation, disseminate best practices in educator preparation and
2 professional development, and close the educational opportunity gap for
3 students in low-achieving schools.

4 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to authorize a pilot project
5 where colleges of education collaborate with school districts to
6 establish collaborative schools for innovation and success serving
7 particularly at-risk and low-achieving students and schools that are
8 persistently low-achieving even after receiving state intervention
9 services through the required action process established in chapter
10 28A.657 RCW. Each collaboration is intended both to accelerate student
11 achievement and deepen the knowledge and skills of current and future
12 educators. (~~The legislature intends that the initial collaborations~~
13 ~~occur in elementary schools. Pending the evaluation results of the~~
14 ~~initial pilot project, the legislature may expand the collaborations to~~
15 ~~include middle and high schools.~~)

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.630.103 and 2012 c 53 s 3 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1)(a) The collaborative schools for innovation and success pilot
19 project is created.

20 (b) Any school district in the state may enter an agreement with a
21 college of education and submit an application to the office of the
22 superintendent of public instruction and the professional educator
23 standards board as provided in RCW 28A.630.104 to participate in the
24 pilot project.

25 (c) School districts that have participated in the required action
26 district process as established in chapter 28A.657 RCW are required to
27 participate in the collaborative schools for innovation and success
28 pilot project if recommended by the office of the superintendent of
29 public instruction under the authority of RCW 28A.657.100 if the state
30 board of education approves that recommendation.

31 (2) The purpose of the pilot project is for colleges of education
32 and school districts to collaborate to improve student and educator
33 success by:

34 (a) Developing and implementing research-based models of
35 instruction and services that have proven to be successful in closing
36 the educational opportunity gap and improving student learning in
37 low-performing schools; and

1 (b) Developing and implementing research-based models of educator
2 preparation and professional development programs that have proven to
3 be successful in building an educator workforce with the knowledge,
4 skills, and background that aligns with the characteristics and needs
5 of students in low-performing schools.

6 (3) For ~~((each proposed pilot project))~~ school districts
7 voluntarily participating in the pilot project under the authority of
8 subsection (1)(b) of this section, the college of education and the
9 school district shall collaborate to select an elementary school in the
10 district to be the collaborative school for innovation and success.
11 The school must be among the lowest-achieving schools in the district
12 as measured by district, state, or federal criteria, including criteria
13 that measure the educational opportunity gap in the school, and the
14 school must not have received state, federal, or private funds for the
15 purpose of implementing a school improvement plan.

16 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.630.104 and 2012 c 53 s 4 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) Each school district and college of education seeking approval
19 to participate in the collaborative schools for innovation and success
20 pilot project under the authority of RCW 28A.630.103(1)(b) must submit
21 a joint application of intent to the office of the superintendent of
22 public instruction and the professional educator standards board by
23 July 1, 2012. Those school districts that are required to participate
24 in the pilot project under the authority of RCW 28A.630.103(1)(c) and
25 28A.657.100 are not required to submit a joint application of intent.

26 (2) An application of intent must contain:

27 (a) The school selected for inclusion in the pilot project and the
28 rationale for its selection;

29 (b) The research basis and theory of action proposed to close the
30 educational opportunity gap and improve student achievement in the
31 selected school;

32 (c) The research basis and theory of action proposed to improve
33 educator preparation and professional development in the selected
34 school;

35 (d) A preliminary plan for involving parents, community members,
36 and school staff in the development of the innovation and success plan
37 under RCW 28A.630.105;

1 (e) The proposed roles and responsibilities of the college of
2 education and school district in the pilot project; and

3 (f) A preliminary plan for using the results of the pilot project
4 to improve educational programs throughout the school district and
5 throughout the college of education.

6 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
7 professional educator standards board shall jointly review the
8 applications submitted under the authority of RCW 28A.630.103(1)(b) and
9 select up to six applications for participation in the pilot project no
10 later than August 1, 2012. One of the selected applications must be
11 from the largest school district in western Washington that submitted
12 an application, and one must be from the largest school district in
13 eastern Washington that submitted an application.

14 (4) The selection criteria shall include, but are not limited to,
15 the quality of the research basis for the proposed collaboration; the
16 efficacy of the proposed strategies for closing the educational
17 opportunity gap, improving student achievement, and improving educator
18 preparation in low-performing schools; and the degree of commitment
19 displayed by the college of education and the school district to
20 collaborate throughout the pilot project.

21 (5) Subject to funds appropriated specifically for this purpose,
22 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall allocate
23 grants to three of the selected applications under subsection (3) of
24 this section, to be used for development and implementation of an
25 innovation and success plan under RCW 28A.630.105. The colleges of
26 education and school districts from the remaining selected applications
27 under subsection (3) of this section may participate in the
28 collaborative schools for innovation and success pilot project by
29 complying with the provisions of RCW 28A.630.105 through 28A.630.107,
30 but without state funding support.

31 (6) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
32 allocate grants to support the development and implementation of an
33 innovation and success plan under RCW 28A.630.105 for all school
34 districts required to participate in the pilot project under RCW
35 28A.657.100.

36 (7) The college of education shall serve as the fiscal agent for
37 the pilot project, unless the college is an independent institution of
38 higher education, in which case the school district shall serve as the

1 fiscal agent. Each college of education and school district must seek
2 private, foundation, community, or other grant funds to leverage any
3 supplemental state funds that may be appropriated for the purposes of
4 the pilot project.

5 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.630.105 and 2012 c 53 s 5 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 (1) After receiving approval of an application of intent, each
8 college of education and school district must conduct a comprehensive
9 needs assessment of the students to be served by a collaborative school
10 for innovation and success. The needs assessment must use
11 disaggregated student data and include a thorough evaluation of student
12 needs as identified by the parents of the students served by the
13 school, as well as the levels of support within the school community
14 and in the external community at-large for students' academic and
15 social emotional needs. The needs assessment must also examine
16 elements included in an academic performance audit under RCW
17 28A.657.040.

18 (2) The college of education and the school district must develop
19 an innovation and success plan for the school in collaboration with
20 school staff, parents, and community members. For school districts
21 required to participate in the pilot project under RCW 28A.657.100, the
22 school district shall work in collaboration with the office of the
23 superintendent of public instruction and the college of education in
24 developing the innovation and success plan.

25 (3) The innovation and success plan must include:

26 (a) The proposed program for instruction, wraparound support
27 services, resource deployment, and professional development that has
28 been developed based on the comprehensive needs assessment;

29 (b) A family and community engagement strategy that builds support
30 among students and parents for high achievement for all students in
31 culturally appropriate ways;

32 (c) Professional learning communities among school staff and higher
33 education faculty that are focused on identifying and responding to
34 emergent student learning needs;

35 (d) Intensive preparation of teacher and principal candidates using
36 research-based practices and a particular focus on cultural competency

1 and skill development to improve learning for English language
2 learners, highly mobile and homeless students, students with
3 disabilities, and other students with special learning needs;

4 (e) Identification of the metrics that will be used to assess
5 student achievement and skill development, both while the students are
6 enrolled in elementary school and after they continue into middle
7 school, and specific goals for improvement of these outcomes over the
8 term of the pilot project, including but not limited to such metrics as
9 attendance, grade-level retention, student growth, disciplinary
10 incidents, course completion and grades, and performance on
11 classroom-based assessments;

12 (f) Identification of the metrics that will be used to assess
13 educator skill development, both for preservice and certificated
14 educators, and specific goals for improvement of these outcomes over
15 the term of the pilot project;

16 (g) Identification of private and community partners to provide
17 wraparound services, technology, mentoring, or other enhancements for
18 the students in the school;

19 (h) Identification of waivers to be requested from the state board
20 of education under RCW 28A.305.140 or from the superintendent of public
21 instruction under RCW 28A.655.180;

22 (i) Identification of any modifications to approved educator
23 preparation programs or other waivers to be requested from the
24 professional educator standards board;

25 (j) Identification and completion of any modifications to school
26 district collective bargaining agreements necessary to implement the
27 innovation and success plan, using the procedures under RCW
28 28A.657.050(3); and

29 (k) A proposed budget based on funding and resources available to
30 the pilot project.

31 (4) Each college of education and school district participating in
32 the pilot project voluntarily must submit a completed innovation and
33 success plan to the office of the superintendent of public instruction
34 and the professional educator standards board by March 15, 2013. Each
35 college of education and school district participating in the pilot
36 project under the requirements of RCW 28A.657.100 shall submit a
37 completed innovation and success plan to the professional educator

1 standards board and the office of the superintendent of public
2 instruction within six months of the state board of education's
3 approval required under section 10 of this act.

4 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
5 professional educator standards board must notify each college of
6 education and school district (~~(by May 1, 2013,)~~) within two months of
7 the innovation and success plan being submitted or by May 1st of the
8 year in which the plan is submitted, whichever is first, of whether the
9 innovation and success plan has been approved. If the plan is not
10 approved, the reasons must be specified in writing and the college of
11 education and school district must be provided an opportunity to revise
12 and resubmit the plan within thirty days. The office and the board may
13 provide technical assistance in revising a plan.

14 (6) School districts are encouraged to assign teachers, principals,
15 and other staff to a collaborative school for innovation and success
16 who express an interest, commitment, and qualifications to participate
17 in the pilot project. School districts are also encouraged to permit
18 the transfer of existing school staff to another school in the district
19 if the staff do not wish to participate in the pilot project.

20 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.630.107 and 2012 c 53 s 7 are each amended to read
21 as follows:

22 (1) Subject to funds appropriated specifically for this purpose,
23 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall contract
24 with a northwest educational research organization to conduct an
25 evaluation of the collaborative schools for innovation and success
26 pilot project using quantitative and qualitative analysis to identify
27 successful practices in improving student and educator outcomes. The
28 organization shall submit a preliminary evaluation by December 1, 2015,
29 and a final evaluation by September 1, 2018, to the superintendent of
30 public instruction and the professional educator standards board.

31 (2) Based on the experience of the participants and the evaluation
32 results, the office of the superintendent of public instruction and the
33 professional educator standards board shall recommend whether the
34 voluntary pilot project should be modified, continued, and expanded to
35 include other elementary schools in the state, or expanded to include
36 middle and high schools. The office and the board shall submit their

1 recommendations and the final report of the pilot project to the
2 governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by December
3 1, 2018.

4 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.657.020 and 2010 c 235 s 102 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Beginning in 2010, and each year thereafter, by December 1st,
7 the superintendent of public instruction shall annually identify
8 schools as one of the state's persistently lowest-achieving schools if
9 the school is a Title I school, or a school that is eligible for but
10 does not receive Title I funds, that is among the lowest-achieving five
11 percent of Title I or Title I eligible schools in the state.

12 (2) The criteria for determining whether a school is among the
13 persistently lowest-achieving five percent of Title I schools, or Title
14 I eligible schools, under subsection (1) of this section shall be
15 established by the superintendent of public instruction. The criteria
16 must meet all applicable requirements for the receipt of a federal
17 school improvement grant under the American recovery and reinvestment
18 act of 2009 and Title I of the elementary and secondary education act
19 of 1965, and take into account both:

20 (a) The academic achievement of the "all students" group in a
21 school in terms of proficiency on the state's assessment, and any
22 alternative assessments, in reading and mathematics combined; and

23 (b) The school's lack of progress on the mathematics and reading
24 assessments over a number of years in the "all students" group.

25 (3) Beginning in 2013, and each year thereafter, as part of the
26 second phase of the accountability system, schools that are not Title
27 I schools may be identified as one of the state's persistently lowest-
28 achieving schools by the superintendent of public instruction under the
29 same criteria established in subsections (1) and (2) of this section
30 and shall be eligible for state funding as provided in this chapter.
31 Non-Title I schools identified under this section are subject to the
32 same requirements under this chapter as are Title I schools.

33 **Sec. 7.** RCW 28A.657.090 and 2010 c 235 s 109 are each amended to
34 read as follows:

35 A school district must implement a required action plan upon
36 approval by the state board of education. The office of (~~the~~) the

1 superintendent of public instruction must provide the required action
2 district with technical assistance and federal school improvement grant
3 funds ((~~or~~)), other federal funds for school improvement, if available,
4 or state funds to implement an approved plan. The district must submit
5 a report to the superintendent of public instruction that provides the
6 progress the district is making in meeting the student achievement
7 goals based on the state's assessments, identifying strategies and
8 assets used to solve audit findings, and establishing evidence of
9 meeting plan implementation benchmarks as set forth in the required
10 action plan.

11 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28A.657.100 and 2010 c 235 s 110 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 (1) The superintendent of public instruction must provide a report
14 twice per year to the state board of education regarding the progress
15 made by all school districts designated as required action districts.

16 (2) The superintendent of public instruction must recommend to the
17 state board of education that a school district be released from the
18 designation as a required action district after the district implements
19 a required action plan for a period of three years; has made progress,
20 as defined by the superintendent of public instruction, in reading and
21 mathematics on the state's assessment over the past three consecutive
22 years; and no longer has a school within the district identified as
23 persistently lowest-achieving. The state board shall release a school
24 district from the designation as a required action district upon
25 confirmation that the district has met the requirements for a release.

26 (3) If a required action district has not met the criteria
27 established in subsection (2) of this section requiring release from
28 designation as a required action district, the superintendent of public
29 instruction may:

30 (a) Recommend to the state board of education that the district
31 remain a required action district for an additional three years; or

32 (b) Recommend to the state board of education that some or all of
33 schools designated as persistently lowest-achieving schools in the
34 district be required to enter into an agreement with a college of
35 education under the provisions established in chapter 28A.630 RCW. If
36 there are multiple schools within the required action district that are

1 recommended to enter into agreements, the same college of education
2 must be used for all the schools.

3 (4) If the state board of education determines that the required
4 action district has not met the requirements for release(~~(7)~~) and the
5 district is to remain(~~(8)~~) in required action (~~(and)~~), the district
6 must submit a new or revised plan under the process in RCW 28A.657.050.

7 (5) If the state board of education determines that the required
8 action district has not met the requirements for release but determines
9 that a lowest-achieving school is to be required to enter into an
10 agreement with a college of education under the requirements of chapter
11 28A.630 RCW, it shall provide the original school district with written
12 notice of the recommendation and shall release the school district from
13 the designation of a required action district only if all of the
14 lowest-achieving schools in the district are required to enter into
15 agreements with a college of education.

16 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28A.657.125 and 2010 c 235 s 114 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The legislature finds that a unified and equitable system of
19 education accountability must include expectations and benchmarks for
20 improvement, along with support for schools and districts to make the
21 necessary changes that will lead to success for all students. Such a
22 system must also clearly address the consequences for persistent lack
23 of improvement. Establishing a process for school districts to prepare
24 and implement a required action plan is one such consequence. However,
25 to be truly accountable to students, parents, the community, and
26 taxpayers, the legislature must also consider what should happen if a
27 required action district continues not to make improvement after an
28 extended period of time. Without an answer to this significant
29 question, the state's system of education accountability is incomplete.
30 Furthermore, accountability must be appropriately shared among various
31 levels of decision makers, including in the building, in the district,
32 and at the state.

33 (2)(a) A joint select committee on education accountability is
34 established beginning no earlier than May 1, 2012, with the following
35 members:

36 (i) The president of the senate shall appoint two members from each
37 of the two largest caucuses of the senate.

1 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two
2 members from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of
3 representatives.

4 (b) The committee shall choose its cochairs from among its
5 membership.

6 (3) The committee shall:

7 (a) Identify and analyze options for a complete system of education
8 accountability, particularly consequences in the case of persistent
9 lack of improvement by a required action district;

10 (b) Identify and analyze appropriate decision-making
11 responsibilities and accompanying consequences at the building,
12 district, and state level within such an accountability system;

13 (c) Examine models and experiences in other states;

14 (d) Identify the circumstances under which significant state action
15 may be required; ((and))

16 (e) Analyze the financial, legal, and practical considerations that
17 would accompany significant state action;

18 (f) Examine whether the use of the collaborative schools pilot
19 project as the second phase for addressing persistent lack of
20 improvement by a required action district is appropriate; and

21 (g) Make recommendations as to whether additional actions or
22 monitoring should be implemented for required action districts that are
23 released from the designation of a required action district in order to
24 ensure that the changes instituted at the school are ongoing and that
25 continuity of services and high academic achievement are maintained
26 after the designation is removed.

27 (4) Staff support for the committee must be provided by the senate
28 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
29 research.

30 (5) The committee shall submit an interim report to the education
31 committees of the legislature by September 1, 2012, and a final report
32 with recommendations by September 1, 2013.

33 (6) This section expires June 30, 2014.

34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. A new section is added to chapter 28A.657
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 (1) If a required action district fails to be released from the
37 designation of a required action district under the provisions of RCW

1 28A.657.100, each school within that district that is designated as a
2 persistently lowest-achieving school may be required to enter into an
3 agreement with a college of education in accordance with chapter
4 28A.630 RCW at the recommendation of the superintendent of public
5 instruction and with the approval of the state board of education.

6 (2) The superintendent of public instruction shall make a
7 recommendation to the state board of education. The state board of
8 education shall develop criteria for determining whether to approve or
9 deny the recommendation, including a process for identifying which
10 college of education would be the partner entity.

11 (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide the
12 required action school district superintendent with written notice of
13 the recommendation by certified mail or personal service.

14 (4) The state board of education must consider the recommendations
15 of the superintendent of public instruction under subsection (2) of
16 this section at a public meeting and must provide an opportunity for
17 comment on the proposal.

18 (5) If the state board of education approves the recommendation,
19 the office of the superintendent of public instruction shall provide
20 technical assistance to the school district and the college of
21 education identified by the state board of education in developing an
22 innovation and success plan as established in RCW 28A.630.105.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 5 of this act expire
24 June 30, 2019.

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