
SENATE BILL 6161

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Rolfes, McAuliffe, Ranker, Billig, Dansel, Conway, Cleveland, Chase, Hasegawa, Mullet, McCoy, Keiser, Pedersen, Kline, Kohl-Welles, and Frockt

Read first time 01/16/14. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring state funding to support professional
2 development for K-12 educators; adding a new section to chapter 28A.415
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that
6 implementation of the common core state standards, increased emphasis
7 on closing the educational opportunity gap, expectations for
8 improvement on multiple measures of student learning and achievement,
9 and implementation of new teacher and principal evaluation systems are
10 only a few of the significant changes made in recent years to the
11 public school system. The legislature further acknowledges that in
12 order to address these changes, school staff need to spend time working
13 together to gain knowledge and skills, develop strategies, and evaluate
14 results. This professional development time is critical, but should
15 not come at the expense of providing instruction to students.
16 Therefore, the legislature intends to provide funding to support
17 professional development outside the regular school year.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.415
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The legislature must appropriate sufficient funds to provide,
4 beginning in the 2014-15 school year, at least two professional
5 development days per year for all state-funded certificated
6 instructional staff, state-funded certificated building-level
7 administrators, and state-funded classified teaching or instructional
8 assistants.

9 (2) For the purposes of this section, "state-funded" means funds
10 and staffing units allocated under RCW 28A.150.260, including funds
11 allocated for the learning assistance program, the transitional
12 bilingual instruction program, special education, and the highly
13 capable program. The method of calculation for providing the funds
14 under this section shall be specified in the omnibus appropriations
15 act.

16 (3) School districts must provide the two professional development
17 days under this section outside the minimum one hundred eighty-day
18 school calendar. School districts may organize the time as portions of
19 days rather than two single full days as long as the total time equates
20 to two days.

21 (4) The legislature may direct a required focus or content for the
22 professional development funded under this section in the omnibus
23 appropriations act. If the legislature does not so direct, the focus
24 and content of the professional development shall be as directed by the
25 school district board of directors.

26 (5) The funding provided under this section shall not be considered
27 part of the program of basic education under RCW 28A.150.200.

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