

---

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6242

---

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

**By** Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators King, Rolfes, Litzow, Billig, Fain, Chase, and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/14.

1 AN ACT Relating to waivers from the one hundred eighty-day school  
2 year requirement; and amending RCW 28A.305.141.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.305.141 and 2009 c 543 s 2 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) In addition to waivers authorized under RCW 28A.305.140 and  
7 28A.655.180, the state board of education may grant waivers from the  
8 requirement for a one hundred eighty-day school year under RCW  
9 28A.150.220 (~~and 28A.150.250~~) to school districts that propose to  
10 operate one or more schools on a flexible calendar for purposes of  
11 economy and efficiency as provided in this section. The requirement  
12 under RCW 28A.150.220 that school districts offer an annual average  
13 instructional hour offering (~~of at least one thousand hours~~) shall  
14 not be waived.

15 (2) A school district seeking a waiver under this section must  
16 submit an application that includes:

17 (a) A proposed calendar for the school day and school year that  
18 demonstrates how the instructional hour requirement will be maintained;

1 (b) An explanation and estimate of the economies and efficiencies  
2 to be gained from compressing the instructional hours into fewer than  
3 one hundred eighty days;

4 (c) An explanation of how monetary savings from the proposal will  
5 be redirected to support student learning;

6 (d) A summary of comments received at one or more public hearings  
7 on the proposal and how concerns will be addressed;

8 (e) An explanation of the impact on students who rely upon free and  
9 reduced-price school child nutrition services and the impact on the  
10 ability of the child nutrition program to operate an economically  
11 independent program;

12 (f) An explanation of the impact on the ability to recruit and  
13 retain employees in education support positions;

14 (g) An explanation of the impact on students whose parents work  
15 during the missed school day; and

16 (h) Other information that the state board of education may request  
17 to assure that the proposed flexible calendar will not adversely affect  
18 student learning.

19 (3) The state board of education shall adopt criteria to evaluate  
20 waiver requests. No more than five school districts with fewer than  
21 five hundred full-time equivalent students on October 1st of the school  
22 year in which the request is made may be granted waivers. Waivers may  
23 be granted for up to three years. After each school year, the state  
24 board of education shall analyze empirical evidence to determine  
25 whether the reduction is affecting student learning. If the state  
26 board of education determines that student learning is adversely  
27 affected, the school district shall discontinue the flexible calendar  
28 as soon as possible but not later than the beginning of the next school  
29 year after the determination has been made. ~~((All waivers expire~~  
30 ~~August 31, 2014.~~

31 ~~(a) Two of the five waivers granted under this subsection shall be~~  
32 ~~granted to school districts with student populations of less than one~~  
33 ~~hundred fifty students.~~

34 ~~(b) Three of the five waivers granted under this subsection shall~~  
35 ~~be granted to school districts with student populations of between one~~  
36 ~~hundred fifty one and five hundred students.))~~

37 (4) The state board of education shall examine the waivers granted  
38 under this section and make a recommendation to the education

1 committees of the legislature by December 15, 2013, regarding whether  
2 the waiver program should be continued, modified, or allowed to  
3 terminate. This recommendation should focus on whether the program  
4 resulted in improved student learning as demonstrated by empirical  
5 evidence. Such evidence includes, but is not limited to: Improved  
6 scores on the ((Washington)) statewide student assessment ((of student  
7 learning)), results of the dynamic indicators of basic early literacy  
8 skills, student grades, and attendance.

9 ((5) This section expires August 31, 2014.)

--- END ---