

**E2SSB 5179** - H AMD

By Representative Bergquist

ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 4/15/2015

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** INTENT. Paraeducators provide the  
4 majority of instruction in programs designed by the legislature to  
5 reduce the opportunity gap. By setting common statewide standards,  
6 training, and career development for paraeducators, as well as  
7 training for teachers and principals who have paraeducators in their  
8 classrooms, students in these programs have a better chance of  
9 succeeding in the classroom.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** DEFINITIONS. The definitions in this  
11 section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly  
12 requires otherwise.

13 (1) "Board" means the professional educator standards board  
14 created in RCW 28A.410.200.

15 (2) "Committee" means the paraeducator professional practices  
16 committee established in section 4 of this act.

17 (3) "English language learner endorsement" means a credential to  
18 work with students in English language learner programs.

19 (4) "English language learner programs" means the English  
20 language learners program, the transitional bilingual instruction  
21 program, and the federal limited English proficiency program.

22 (5) "Paraeducator" means a school district employee who works  
23 under the supervision of a certificated staff member to support and  
24 assist in providing instructional and other services to students and  
25 their families.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS. Effective September  
27 1, 2015, the minimum employment entry standards for a paraeducator  
28 who works in the learning assistance program, the federal  
29 disadvantaged programs, and the English language learner programs are  
30 as provided in this section. The paraeducator must:

1 (1) Be at least eighteen years of age, hold a high school diploma  
2 or its equivalent, and have received a passing grade on the education  
3 testing service paraeducator assessment;

4 (2) Hold an associate of arts degree; or

5 (3) Have earned seventy-two quarter credits or forty-eight  
6 semester credits at an institution of higher education.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** PARAEDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES  
8 COMMITTEE. (1) By September 1, 2015, the board shall establish a  
9 paraeducator professional practices committee to advise the board,  
10 the state board for community and technical colleges, and the office  
11 of the superintendent of public instruction on the training and  
12 development of paraeducators.

13 (2) Appointments to the committee must be made as follows:

14 (a) The superintendent of public instruction shall appoint a  
15 paraeducator, a teacher, a principal, and a human resource director;

16 (b) The Washington state parent teacher association shall appoint  
17 a parent whose child receives instructional support from a  
18 paraeducator;

19 (c) The state board for community and technical colleges shall  
20 appoint a representative of the community or technical college  
21 system; and

22 (d) The student achievement council shall appoint a  
23 representative of a four-year institution of higher education as  
24 defined in RCW 28B.10.016.

25 (3) The board shall oversee and administer the committee.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** STANDARDS AND COURSES OF STUDY. (1) The  
27 board shall adopt state standards of practice for paraeducators  
28 working in the learning assistance program, the federal disadvantaged  
29 programs, and the English language learner programs that are based on  
30 the recommendations of the paraeducator work group established in  
31 chapter 136, Laws of 2014. These standards must include:

32 (a) Supporting instructional opportunities;

33 (b) Demonstrating professionalism and ethical practices;

34 (c) Supporting a positive and safe learning environment;

35 (d) Communicating effectively and participating in the team  
36 process; and

37 (e) Demonstrating cultural competency aligned with standards  
38 developed by the board under RCW 28A.410.270.

1 (2) The board shall adopt standards and rules for the issuance of  
2 an English language learner endorsement, based on the recommendations  
3 of the paraeducator work group established in chapter 136, Laws of  
4 2014.

5 (3) The committee shall propose that the board adopt standards  
6 and rules for the issuance of advanced paraeducator endorsement.  
7 These standards and the course of study necessary to meet the  
8 standards, as approved under subsection (4) of this section, must  
9 qualify an advanced paraeducator to fulfill the following  
10 responsibilities: Mentor or coach other paraeducators, assist in  
11 highly impacted classrooms, assist in specific specialized  
12 instruction support or technology applications, and substitute for  
13 teachers in short absence situations in districts with substitute  
14 teacher shortages.

15 (4)(a) The committee, in collaboration with the state board for  
16 community and technical colleges, the office of the superintendent of  
17 public instruction, and the educational service districts, must  
18 recommend to the board the course of study necessary to meet the  
19 state standards of practice and the endorsement standards adopted by  
20 the board under this section.

21 (b) The courses of study must be made available through various  
22 means to limit costs and improve access with providers including the  
23 community and technical colleges, the educational service districts,  
24 and the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

25 (c) The deadlines for the board to approve courses of study are  
26 as follows:

27 (i) July 1, 2016, for the course of study necessary to meet the  
28 state standards of practice and the English language learner  
29 endorsement; and

30 (ii) September 1, 2017, for the course of study necessary to meet  
31 the advanced paraeducator endorsement.

32 (5) To support the tasks in this section, the committee and the  
33 board may consult with experts.

34 (6) This section is subject to the availability of amounts  
35 appropriated for this specific purpose.

36 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** PILOTS. (1) During the 2016-17 and 2017-18  
37 school years, the board shall distribute grants, as funded by the  
38 legislature, to a diverse set of school districts that volunteer to  
39 participate in a collaborative process resulting in the development

1 and piloting of the state paraeducator standards of practice and the  
2 English language learner endorsement standards adopted by the board  
3 under section 5 of this act.

4 (2) By September 1, 2017, and September 1, 2018, the volunteer  
5 districts must report to the committee and the board with the  
6 outcomes of year one of the pilot and any recommendations for  
7 implementing the paraeducator standards of practice statewide. The  
8 outcomes reported must include: An analysis of the costs to the  
9 district to implement the state standards of practice and the English  
10 language learner endorsement standards and the course of study  
11 necessary to meet these standards; any costs to paraeducators to meet  
12 the standards; the number of paraeducators in the district that meet  
13 the standards; and the impact on the size and assignment of the  
14 paraeducator workforce as a result of the pilot.

15 (3) By December 1, 2017, the committee and the board shall submit  
16 a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature that  
17 includes: (a) The outcomes of the pilot; (b) recommendations on  
18 whether the state should implement the standards of practice and the  
19 English language learner endorsement standards statewide with  
20 estimated costs of statewide implementation to the state and to  
21 districts; and (c) the effects of establishing a system of continuing  
22 education, licensure, endorsement, or alternative training  
23 verification processes and fees. In developing the report, the  
24 committee and the board shall collaborate with the office of the  
25 superintendent of public instruction, the educational service  
26 districts, the state board for community and technical colleges, and  
27 the school districts receiving grants under this section.

28 (4) The committee and the board shall include in the board's 2018  
29 joint report to the legislature under RCW 28A.305.035 an update of  
30 the report required in subsection (3) of this section.

31 (5) This section is subject to the availability of amounts  
32 appropriated for this specific purpose.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** STATEWIDE IMPLEMENTATION. (1) No later  
34 than September 1, 2018, all school districts must begin implementing  
35 the state standards of practice for paraeducators working in the  
36 learning assistance program, the federal disadvantaged programs, and  
37 the English language learner programs, according to a phase-in  
38 schedule specified by the legislature.

1 (2) This section is subject to the availability of amounts  
2 appropriated for this specific purpose.

3 **Sec. 8.** RCW 28A.410.212 and 2009 c 531 s 1 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 The professional educator standards board shall:

6 (1) Develop and maintain a research base of educator preparation  
7 best practices;

8 (2) Develop and coordinate initiatives for educator preparation  
9 in high-demand fields as well as outreach and recruitment initiatives  
10 for underrepresented populations;

11 (3) Provide program improvement technical assistance to providers  
12 of educator preparation programs;

13 (4) Assure educator preparation program compliance; (~~and~~)

14 (5) Prepare and maintain a cohesive educator development policy  
15 framework; and

16 (6) Perform the duties related to paraeducators provided in  
17 chapter 28A.--- RCW (the new chapter created in section 11 of this  
18 act).

19 **Sec. 9.** RCW 28A.630.400 and 2011 1st sp.s. c 11 s 132 are each  
20 amended to read as follows:

21 (1) The professional educator standards board and the state board  
22 for community and technical colleges, in consultation with the  
23 superintendent of public instruction, the state apprenticeship  
24 training council, and community colleges, shall adopt rules as  
25 necessary under chapter 34.05 RCW to implement the paraeducator  
26 associate of arts degree.

27 (2) As used in this section, a "paraeducator" is an individual  
28 who has completed an associate of arts degree for a paraeducator. The  
29 paraeducator may be hired by a school district to assist certificated  
30 instructional staff in the direct instruction of children in small  
31 and large groups, individualized instruction, testing of children,  
32 recordkeeping, and preparation of materials. The paraeducator shall  
33 work under the direction of instructional certificated staff.

34 (3)(a) The training program for a paraeducator associate of arts  
35 degree shall include, but is not limited to, the general requirements  
36 for receipt of an associate of arts degree and training in the areas  
37 of introduction to childhood education, orientation to children with  
38 disabilities, fundamentals of childhood education, creative

1 activities for children, instructional materials for children, fine  
2 art experiences for children, the psychology of learning,  
3 introduction to education, child health and safety, child development  
4 and guidance, first aid, and a practicum in a school setting.

5 (b) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
6 specific purpose, by September 1, 2016, the training program for a  
7 paraeducator associate of arts degree must incorporate the state  
8 paraeducator standards of practice adopted by the professional  
9 educator standards board under section 5 of this act.

10 (4) Consideration shall be given to transferability of credit  
11 earned in this program to teacher preparation programs at colleges  
12 and universities.

13 **Sec. 10.** RCW 28B.50.891 and 2014 c 136 s 4 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 Beginning with the ((2015-16)) 2016-17 academic year, any  
16 community or technical college that offers an apprenticeship program  
17 or certificate program for paraeducators must provide candidates the  
18 opportunity to earn transferrable course credits within the program.  
19 The programs must also incorporate the standards for cultural  
20 competence, including multicultural education and principles of  
21 language acquisition, developed by the professional educator  
22 standards board under RCW 28A.410.270. Subject to the availability of  
23 amounts appropriated for this specific purpose, by September 1, 2016,  
24 the paraeducator apprenticeship and certificate programs must also  
25 incorporate the state paraeducator standards of practice adopted by  
26 the professional educator standards board under section 5 of this  
27 act.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** Sections 1 through 7 of this act  
29 constitute a new chapter in Title 28A RCW."

30 Correct the title.

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