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HOUSE BILL 2690

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State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Sells, Ortiz-Self, Rossetti, McCaslin, Peterson, Kagi, S. Hunt, Robinson, Muri, Springer, Bergquist, Goodman, Haler, and Pollet

Read first time 01/18/16. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a pilot project to provide middle and  
2 junior high school students strategic and intentional academic  
3 support beyond the traditional school day to promote accountability  
4 and responsibility; adding new sections to chapter 43.330 RCW;  
5 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature acknowledges that all  
8 students do not learn in the same way or in the same amount of time.  
9 The legislature recognizes that students in middle and junior high  
10 schools would greatly benefit from additional academic support beyond  
11 the traditional school day to meet or exceed grade level learning  
12 standards and be ready for high school. The legislature finds that  
13 after-school learning labs provide a space within schools where  
14 students can learn accountability and responsibility through  
15 completing homework, monitoring classwork, passing state tests, and  
16 gaining mentorship as they work toward college and career readiness.  
17 The legislature acknowledges that after-school learning labs can also  
18 provide ongoing classes for parents, guardians, and students focused  
19 on teaching the skills needed to support academic success. The  
20 legislature intends to create a pilot project that establishes  
21 learning labs in middle and junior high schools to provide students

1 the strategic and intentional support they need to achieve  
2 academically.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 The definitions in this section apply throughout sections 2  
6 through 5 of this act unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

7 (1) "After-school academic support entity" means an entity that  
8 is exempt from taxation under 26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3) of the federal  
9 internal revenue code of 1986, as amended, as of the effective date  
10 of this section, and that works with public middle or junior high  
11 schools to provide after-school academic support to students beyond  
12 the traditional school day within the schools.

13 (2) "Lab director" means a part-time independent contractor who  
14 may hold a teaching certificate. The lab director supervises and is  
15 responsible for a learning lab. The lab director plays an active role  
16 in supporting student achievement through grade monitoring, rewarding  
17 success, and creating an academic culture.

18 (3) "Learning lab" means an after-school program that provides  
19 additional academic support to public middle or junior high school  
20 students. A learning lab is housed in a room with computer access  
21 such as a library or computer room in a public middle or junior high  
22 school building and is led by a lab director.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 (1) A pilot project is established to create after-school  
26 learning labs in public middle and junior high schools. The pilot  
27 project must start at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year and  
28 end at the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year.

29 (2) The purpose of the pilot project is to provide public middle  
30 and junior high school students with an organized and consistent  
31 learning environment to help them meet or exceed grade level  
32 standards, obtain the skills to be successful high school students,  
33 and be well prepared for postsecondary education.

34 (3)(a) The department shall administer the pilot project. No more  
35 than four percent of the funding provided for the pilot project may  
36 be used by the department for administrative purposes.

37 (b) An after-school academic support entity shall implement the  
38 pilot project in a county located west of the crest of the Cascade

1 mountains with a total population between seven hundred thousand and  
2 eight hundred thousand people to establish learning labs in that  
3 county's public middle and junior high schools.

4 (c) Public middle and junior high schools participating in the  
5 pilot project must agree to partner with the after-school academic  
6 support entity.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 (1) Each middle or junior high school participating in the pilot  
10 project shall have a learning lab that is open to students from after  
11 school until six o'clock p.m. each day that school is in session  
12 unless this time has to be adjusted for the school calendar.

13 (2) Each middle or junior high school participating in the pilot  
14 project shall have a lab director. The lab director must be  
15 contracted with district input, trained, and supported by the after-  
16 school academic support entity that implements the pilot project  
17 under section 3(3) of this act. This training must include the  
18 following topics:

- 19 (a) Involving parents and guardians;
- 20 (b) Monitoring grades and state test scores;
- 21 (c) Recognizing student academic improvement; and
- 22 (d) Recruiting and training learning lab volunteers.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330  
24 RCW to read as follows:

25 Starting August 1, 2017, and each August 1st thereafter, and in  
26 compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the department in collaboration with  
27 the after-school academic support entity that implements the pilot  
28 project under section 3(3) of this act, shall submit an annual  
29 progress report regarding the pilot project to the governor and the  
30 appropriate committees of the legislature. The final report shall be  
31 submitted by August 1, 2020, and shall include a recommendation on  
32 whether the pilot project should be continued, expanded, or  
33 discontinued.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act may be known and cited as the  
35 accountability, responsibility, and academic achievement act.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 7.**    Sections 1 through 5 of this act expire  
2    June 30, 2021.

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