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HOUSE BILL 2729

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Representatives Stokesbary and Magendanz

Read first time 01/19/16. Referred to Committee on Education.

1            AN ACT Relating to school grading and choice; amending RCW  
2 28A.655.110 and 28A.657.110; adding a new section to chapter 28A.657  
3 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.657  
6 RCW to read as follows:

7            (1)(a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction  
8 must grant the request of a student's parent or guardian for the  
9 student to enroll in and attend a common school in accordance with  
10 the provisions of this section if the student:

11            (i) Spent the prior school year in attendance at a common school  
12 that received a grade, under section 2 of this act of "F" or three  
13 consecutive grades of "D," and the student's attendance occurred  
14 during a school year in which such designation was in effect;

15            (ii) Was in attendance elsewhere in the common school system and  
16 has been assigned to a school with the designation described in this  
17 subsection (1)(a) for the next school year; or

18            (iii) Was notified that he or she has been assigned to a common  
19 school with the designation described in this subsection (1)(a) for  
20 the next school year.

1 (b) For purposes of continuity of educational choice, the  
2 permission granted under this section must remain in effect until the  
3 student graduates from high school.

4 (2) A school district must, for each student who meets the  
5 criteria in subsection (1)(a) of this section:

6 (a) Notify the parent or guardian of the student of all options  
7 available under this section upon receiving a designation described  
8 in subsection (1)(a) of this section;

9 (b) Provide the parent or guardian of the student with an  
10 opportunity to enroll the student in a higher performing common  
11 school within the district that has received a grade of "C" or higher  
12 in the preceding school year;

13 (c) Provide the student with the opportunity to continue  
14 attendance in the higher performing common school's feeder pattern  
15 until the student graduates from high school; and

16 (d) If the parent or guardian of the student chooses to enroll  
17 the student in a higher performing common school in the district,  
18 incur the cost of transporting the student to the chosen school.

19 (3)(a) The parent or guardian of a student who meets the criteria  
20 in subsection (1)(a) of this section may, as an alternative to the  
21 school district offer under subsection (2)(b) of this section, choose  
22 to enroll the student in and transport the student to a higher  
23 performing common school in any school district in the state that has  
24 enrollment capacity.

25 (b) The school district selected by the parent or guardian under  
26 (a) of this subsection must accept the student and report the  
27 enrollment of the student to the office of the superintendent of  
28 public instruction.

29 (c) If the parent or guardian of a student who meets the criteria  
30 in subsection (1)(a) of this section enrolls the student in another  
31 school district, in accordance with this subsection (3), the office  
32 of the superintendent of public instruction shall, if funds are  
33 appropriated for this specific purpose, distribute to the student's  
34 resident school district funding to compensate the district for the  
35 funding lost due to the student's transfer.

36 (4) This section does not apply to a student who is enrolled in a  
37 school operating for the purposes of providing educational services  
38 to youth in education programs for juvenile inmates, under chapters  
39 28A.193 and 28A.194 RCW.

1       **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.655.110 and 2010 c 235 s 703 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Beginning with the 1994-95 school year, to provide the local  
4 community and electorate with access to information on the  
5 educational programs in the schools in the district, each school  
6 shall publish annually a school performance report and deliver the  
7 report to each parent with children enrolled in the school and make  
8 the report available to the community served by the school. The  
9 annual performance report shall be in a form that can be easily  
10 understood and be used by parents, guardians, and other members of  
11 the community who are not professional educators to make informed  
12 educational decisions. As data from the assessments in RCW  
13 28A.655.060 becomes available, the annual performance report should  
14 enable parents, educators, and school board members to determine  
15 whether students in the district's schools are attaining mastery of  
16 the student learning goals under RCW 28A.150.210, and other important  
17 facts about the schools' performance in assisting students to learn.  
18 The annual report shall make comparisons to a school's performance in  
19 preceding years, student performance relative to the goals and the  
20 percentage of students performing at each level of the assessment, a  
21 comparison of student performance at each level of the assessment to  
22 the previous year's performance, and information regarding school-  
23 level plans to achieve the goals.

24       (2) The annual performance report shall include, but not be  
25 limited to: (a) A brief statement of the mission of the school and  
26 the school district; (b) enrollment statistics including student  
27 demographics; (c) expenditures per pupil for the school year; (d) a  
28 summary of student scores on all mandated tests; (e) a concise annual  
29 budget report; (f) student attendance, graduation, and dropout rates;  
30 (g) the performance of the school and the school district on the  
31 Washington achievement index developed under RCW 28A.657.110; (h)  
32 information regarding the use and condition of the school building or  
33 buildings; ~~((+h))~~ (i) a brief description of the learning  
34 improvement plans for the school; ~~((+i))~~ (j) a summary of the  
35 feedback from parents and community members obtained under RCW  
36 28A.655.115; and ~~((+j))~~ (k) an invitation to all parents and  
37 citizens to participate in school activities.

38       (3) The superintendent of public instruction shall develop by  
39 June 30, 1994, and update periodically, a model report form, which  
40 shall also be adapted for computers, that schools may use to meet the

1 requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this section. In order to  
2 make school performance reports broadly accessible to the public, the  
3 superintendent of public instruction, to the extent feasible, shall  
4 make information on each school's report available on or through the  
5 superintendent's internet web site.

6 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.657.110 and 2013 c 159 s 12 are each amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 (1) By November 1, 2013, the state board of education shall  
9 propose rules for adoption establishing an accountability framework  
10 that creates a unified system of support for challenged schools that  
11 aligns with basic education, increases the level of support based  
12 upon the magnitude of need, and uses data for decisions. The board  
13 must seek input from the public and interested groups in developing  
14 the framework. Based on the framework, the superintendent of public  
15 instruction shall design a comprehensive system of specific  
16 strategies for recognition, provision of differentiated support and  
17 targeted assistance, and, if necessary, requiring intervention in  
18 schools and school districts. The superintendent shall submit the  
19 system design to the state board of education for review. The state  
20 board of education shall recommend approval or modification of the  
21 system design to the superintendent no later than January 1, 2014,  
22 and the system must be implemented statewide no later than the  
23 2014-15 school year. To the extent state funds are appropriated for  
24 this purpose, the system must apply equally to Title I, Title I-  
25 eligible, and non-Title I schools in the state.

26 (2)(a) The state board of education shall develop a Washington  
27 achievement index to identify schools and school districts for  
28 recognition, for continuous improvement, and for additional state  
29 support. The index shall be based on criteria that are fair,  
30 consistent, and transparent. Performance shall be measured using  
31 multiple outcomes and indicators including, but not limited to,  
32 graduation rates and results from statewide assessments. The index  
33 shall be developed in such a way as to be easily understood by both  
34 employees within the schools and school districts, as well as parents  
35 and community members. It is the legislature's intent that the index  
36 provide feedback to schools and school districts to self-assess their  
37 progress, and enable the identification of schools with exemplary  
38 performance and those that need assistance to overcome challenges in  
39 order to achieve exemplary performance.

1 (b) Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, the state board of  
2 education shall modify the index developed under (a) of this  
3 subsection to identify schools using an A through F grading system,  
4 as follows:

5 (i) "A" for schools producing excellent student achievement and  
6 progress;

7 (ii) "B" for schools producing above average student achievement  
8 and progress;

9 (iii) "C" for schools producing satisfactory student achievement  
10 and progress;

11 (iv) "D" for schools producing less than satisfactory student  
12 achievement and progress; and

13 (v) "F" for schools failing to produce adequate student  
14 achievement and progress.

15 (3) The state board of education, in cooperation with the office  
16 of the superintendent of public instruction, shall annually recognize  
17 schools for exemplary performance as measured on the Washington  
18 achievement index. The state board of education shall have ongoing  
19 collaboration with the educational opportunity gap oversight and  
20 accountability committee regarding the measures used to measure the  
21 closing of the achievement gaps and the recognition provided to the  
22 school districts for closing the achievement gaps.

23 (4) In coordination with the superintendent of public  
24 instruction, the state board of education shall seek approval from  
25 the United States department of education for use of the Washington  
26 achievement index and the state system of differentiated support,  
27 assistance, and intervention to replace the federal accountability  
28 system under P.L. 107-110, the no child left behind act of 2001.

29 (5) The state board of education shall work with the education  
30 data center established within the office of financial management and  
31 the technical working group established in RCW 28A.290.020 to  
32 determine the feasibility of using the prototypical funding  
33 allocation model as not only a tool for allocating resources to  
34 schools and school districts but also as a tool for schools and  
35 school districts to report to the state legislature and the state  
36 board of education on how the state resources received are being  
37 used.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    This act may be known and cited as the  
2 school choice act.

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