
SENATE BILL 5856

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Frockt, Litzow, Kohl-Welles, Pedersen, Nelson, and McAuliffe

Read first time 02/05/15. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a competitive grant program for high-
2 quality, evidence-based outreach programs that improve high school
3 graduation rates for college bound scholarship students; adding a new
4 section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; creating a new section; and making
5 appropriations.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that low-income
8 students who enroll in the college bound scholarship program are more
9 likely to graduate from high school. It also finds that high-quality
10 programming offered by nonprofit organizations can dramatically
11 improve outcomes for low-income students in Washington state.
12 Research has shown that the cost of high-quality programs offered by
13 nonprofit organizations represent a small fraction of the public and
14 personal financial benefit created when a low-income student
15 graduates from high school.

16 Therefore, the legislature intends to create a competitive grant
17 program to fund high-quality, evidence-based outreach programs to
18 low-income students enrolled in Washington's college bound
19 scholarship program.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
4 establish a competitive grant program and provide grants to high-
5 quality, evidence-based outreach programs that offer student support
6 services for college bound scholarship students.

7 (2) By December 31, 2015, the office of the superintendent of
8 public instruction shall develop a selection process for grant
9 applicants. The selected programs must demonstrate success in
10 improving high school graduation rates. Additionally, the office of
11 the superintendent of public instruction must consider high-quality,
12 evidence-based outreach programs that:

13 (a) Intentionally focus on student success in secondary and
14 postsecondary levels;

15 (b) Contain an evaluation process for the success of the program;

16 (c) Serve students who are underrepresented in degree attainment,
17 including but not limited to low-income students, students of color,
18 and potential first-generation college students;

19 (d) Serve middle school and high school-age students;

20 (e) Provide academic advising, tutoring, and mentoring services;

21 (f) Offer students with continuous multiyear support; and

22 (g) Serve geographic regions with unmet needs.

23 (3) Grants may be awarded to programs that are developed by local
24 coalitions to achieve improved student outcomes.

25 (4) Grants shall only be disbursed to nonprofit organizations
26 exempt from tax under section 501(c) of the federal internal revenue
27 code that can provide matching funds or in-kind services.

28 (5) Beginning December 1, 2016, the office of the superintendent
29 of public instruction shall annually submit a report of the student
30 services provided as a result of the grant program established under
31 this section.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) The sum of five million dollars, or as
33 much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year
34 ending June 30, 2016, from the general fund to the office of the
35 superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of this act.

36 (2) The sum of five million dollars, or as much thereof as may be
37 necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017,

1 from the general fund to the office of the superintendent of public
2 instruction for the purposes of this act.

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