
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1341

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Bergquist, McCaslin, Stonier, Muri, and Pollet)

READ FIRST TIME 02/17/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to professional certification for teachers and
2 school administrators; amending RCW 28A.410.210, 28A.410.220,
3 28A.410.250, and 28A.410.270; adding new sections to chapter 28A.410
4 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
7 RCW to read as follows:

8 By September 1, 2017, the professional educator standards board
9 shall adopt rules for professional administrator certification that
10 are substantially similar to the professional development credit
11 option for professional teacher certification, described in section
12 2(3) of this act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1) For the purposes of this section, "board" means the
16 professional educator standards board.

17 (2) The board shall adopt rules that provide three options for
18 professional certification for teachers that meet the requirements of
19 this section.

20 (3) By September 1, 2017, the board shall:

1 (a) Allow an applicant to qualify for the professional teacher
2 certificate by earning seventy-five approved professional development
3 credits within five years following the year that the teacher first
4 completes provisional status, and require that teachers at the
5 elementary and secondary levels in STEM-related subjects who use this
6 professional certification option earn credits focusing on the
7 integration of science, mathematics, technology, and engineering
8 instruction;

9 (b) Provide for a one-time, one-year extension to an applicant
10 who does not meet the requirements of (a) of this subsection that
11 requires the applicant to earn ninety approved professional
12 development credits within six years following the year that the
13 teacher first completes provisional status;

14 (c) Define a professional development credit to mean a credit
15 earned by attending sixty minutes of approved professional
16 development activity;

17 (d) Define a professional development activity to mean a method
18 by which a teacher may earn a professional development credit, where:

19 (i) The activity is related to pedagogy, the teacher's
20 endorsement area or an endorsement area the teacher wishes to add,
21 professional responsibilities, mentoring, or working with families
22 and the community, among other things;

23 (ii) The activity is not required by federal or state laws, or
24 local school district policies, though the subject matter of the
25 activity may be related to federal, state, or local requirements;

26 (iii) The activity is not related to first aid or athletics;

27 (iv) The teacher earns credit for attending, participating in,
28 teaching, presenting, or preparing for the activity; and

29 (v) The teacher may be compensated for earning, but was not
30 required to earn, the credit by the school district;

31 (e) Develop and implement a means to approve and track
32 professional development credits earned for approved professional
33 development activities;

34 (f) Develop a process for approving professional development
35 activities and for approving providers of professional development
36 activities. The board may choose to approve activities that are not
37 offered by an approved provider; and

38 (g) Determine and adjust professional certification fees to
39 defray the reasonable, necessary cost of administering this section.

1 (4)(a) The board shall allow an applicant to qualify for the
2 professional teacher certificate by meeting performance standards on
3 a uniform and externally administered professional-level
4 certification assessment based on demonstrated teaching skill. In the
5 development of this assessment, consideration must be given to
6 changes in professional certification program components such as the
7 culminating seminar.

8 (b) The board may permit exceptions from the assessment
9 requirements in subsection (3) of this section on a case-by-case
10 basis.

11 (c) The board shall provide for reasonable accommodations for
12 individuals who are required to take the assessment required in
13 subsection (3) of this section if the individuals have learning or
14 other disabilities.

15 (d) With the exception of applicants exempt from this assessment
16 requirement, an applicant must achieve a minimum assessment score or
17 scores established by the board on the assessment.

18 (e) The board shall collaboratively select or develop and
19 implement the assessment and minimum assessment score required with
20 the superintendent of public instruction and shall provide
21 opportunities for representatives of other interested educational
22 organizations to participate in the selection or development and
23 implementation of such assessments in a manner deemed appropriate by
24 the board.

25 (f) The board and the superintendent of public instruction, as
26 determined by the board, may contract for the development, purchase,
27 administration, scoring, and reporting of scores of the assessments,
28 related clerical and administrative activities, or any combination of
29 these purposes.

30 (g) Applicants for professional certificates who are required to
31 successfully complete the assessment required in subsection (3) of
32 this section and who are charged a fee for the assessment by a third
33 party contracted with under subsection (3)(f) of this section shall
34 pay the fee charged by the contractor directly to the contractor.
35 Such fees must be reasonably related to the actual costs of the
36 contractor in providing the assessment.

37 (h) The award of a professional certificate under subsection (3)
38 of this section must be based on a minimum of two years of successful
39 teaching experience as defined by the board and on the results of the

1 evaluation authorized under this subsection and may not require
2 candidates to enroll in a professional certification program.

3 (5) The board shall allow an applicant to qualify for the
4 professional teacher certificate by completing an assessment for
5 national board for professional teaching standards and earning a
6 national board certification.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.410.210 and 2009 c 531 s 4 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

9 The purpose of the professional educator standards board is to
10 establish policies and requirements for the preparation and
11 certification of educators that provide standards for competency in
12 professional knowledge and practice in the areas of certification; a
13 foundation of skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to help
14 students with diverse needs, abilities, cultural experiences, and
15 learning styles meet or exceed the learning goals outlined in RCW
16 28A.150.210; knowledge of research-based practice; and professional
17 development throughout a career. The Washington professional educator
18 standards board shall:

19 (1) Establish policies and practices for the approval of programs
20 of courses, requirements, and other activities leading to educator
21 certification including teacher, school administrator, and
22 educational staff associate certification;

23 (2) Establish policies and practices for the approval of the
24 character of work required to be performed as a condition of entrance
25 to and graduation from any educator preparation program including
26 teacher, school administrator, and educational staff associate
27 preparation program as provided in subsection (1) of this section;

28 (3) Establish a list of accredited institutions of higher
29 education of this and other states whose graduates may be awarded
30 educator certificates as teacher, school administrator, and
31 educational staff associate and establish criteria and enter into
32 agreements with other states to acquire reciprocal approval of
33 educator preparation programs and certification, including teacher
34 certification from the national board for professional teaching
35 standards;

36 (4) Establish policies for approval of nontraditional educator
37 preparation programs;

38 (5) Conduct a review of educator program approval standards at
39 least every five years, beginning in 2006, to reflect research

1 findings and assure continued improvement of preparation programs for
2 teachers, administrators, and school specialized personnel;

3 (6) Specify the types and kinds of educator certificates to be
4 issued and conditions for certification in accordance with subsection
5 (1) of this section, sections 1 and 2 of this act, and RCW
6 28A.410.010;

7 (7) Apply for and receive federal or other funds on behalf of the
8 state for purposes related to the duties of the board;

9 (8) Adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are necessary for
10 the effective and efficient implementation of this chapter;

11 (9) Maintain data concerning educator preparation programs and
12 their quality, educator certification, educator employment trends and
13 needs, and other data deemed relevant by the board;

14 (10) Serve as an advisory body to the superintendent of public
15 instruction on issues related to educator recruitment, hiring,
16 mentoring and support, professional growth, retention, educator
17 evaluation including but not limited to peer evaluation, and
18 revocation and suspension of licensure;

19 (11) Submit, by October 15th of each even-numbered year, a joint
20 report with the state board of education to the legislative education
21 committees, the governor, and the superintendent of public
22 instruction. The report shall address the progress the boards have
23 made and the obstacles they have encountered, individually and
24 collectively, in the work of achieving the goals set out in RCW
25 28A.150.210;

26 (12) Establish the prospective teacher assessment system for
27 basic skills and subject knowledge that shall be required to obtain
28 residency certification pursuant to RCW 28A.410.220 through
29 28A.410.240; and

30 ~~((By January 2010, set performance standards and develop,~~
31 ~~pilot, and implement a uniform and externally administered~~
32 ~~professional-level certification assessment based on demonstrated~~
33 ~~teaching skill. In the development of this assessment, consideration~~
34 ~~shall be given to changes in professional certification program~~
35 ~~components such as the culminating seminar; and~~

36 ~~(+14))~~ Conduct meetings under the provisions of chapter 42.30
37 RCW.

38 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.410.220 and 2013 c 193 s 2 are each amended to
39 read as follows:

1 (1)(a) Beginning not later than September 1, 2001, the Washington
2 professional educator standards board shall make available and pilot
3 a means of assessing an applicant's knowledge in the basic skills.
4 For the purposes of this section, "basic skills" means the subjects
5 of at least reading, writing, and mathematics. Beginning September 1,
6 2002, except as provided in (c) and (d) of this subsection and
7 subsection ~~((+4))~~ (3) of this section, passing this assessment shall
8 be required for admission to approved teacher preparation programs
9 and for persons from out-of-state applying for a Washington state
10 residency teaching certificate.

11 (b) On an individual student basis, approved teacher preparation
12 programs may admit into their programs a candidate who has not
13 achieved the minimum basic skills assessment score established by the
14 Washington professional educator standards board. Individuals so
15 admitted may not receive residency certification without passing the
16 basic skills assessment under this section.

17 (c) The Washington professional educator standards board may
18 establish criteria to ensure that persons from out-of-state who are
19 applying for residency certification and persons applying to master's
20 degree level teacher preparation programs can demonstrate to the
21 board's satisfaction that they have the requisite basic skills based
22 upon having completed another basic skills assessment acceptable to
23 the Washington professional educator standards board or by some other
24 alternative approved by the Washington professional educator
25 standards board.

26 (d) The Washington professional educator standards board may
27 identify and accept other tests and test scores as long as the tests
28 are comparable in rigor to the basic skills assessment and candidates
29 meet or exceed the basic skills requirements established by the
30 board. The board must set the acceptable score for admission to
31 teacher certification programs at no lower than the average national
32 scores for the SAT or ACT.

33 ~~(2) ((The Washington professional educator standards board shall
34 set performance standards and develop, pilot, and implement a uniform
35 and externally administered professional level certification
36 assessment based on demonstrated teaching skill. In the development
37 of this assessment, consideration shall be given to changes in
38 professional certification program components such as the culminating
39 seminar.~~

1 ~~(3) Beginning not later than September 1, 2002,~~) The Washington
2 professional educator standards board shall provide for ~~((the initial~~
3 ~~piloting and implementation of))~~ a means of assessing an applicant's
4 knowledge in the subjects for which the applicant has applied for an
5 endorsement to his or her residency ~~((or professional))~~ teaching
6 certificate. The assessment of subject knowledge shall not include
7 instructional methodology. ~~((Beginning September 1, 2005,))~~ Passing
8 this assessment ~~((shall be))~~ is required to receive an endorsement
9 for certification purposes.

10 ~~((4))~~ (3) The Washington professional educator standards board
11 may permit exceptions from the assessment requirements under
12 subsections (1)~~((7))~~ and (2)~~((7 and 3))~~ of this section on a case-
13 by-case basis.

14 ~~((5))~~ (4) The Washington professional educator standards board
15 shall provide for reasonable accommodations for individuals who are
16 required to take the assessments in subsection (1)~~((7))~~ or (2)~~((7 or~~
17 ~~3))~~ of this section if the individuals have learning or other
18 disabilities.

19 ~~((6))~~ (5) With the exception of applicants exempt from the
20 requirements of subsections (1)~~((7))~~ and (2)~~((7 and 3))~~ of this
21 section, an applicant must achieve a minimum assessment score or
22 scores established by the Washington professional educator standards
23 board on each of the assessments under subsections (1)~~((7))~~ and (2)
24 ~~((7 and 3))~~ of this section.

25 ~~((7))~~ (6) The Washington professional educator standards board
26 and superintendent of public instruction, as determined by the
27 Washington professional educator standards board, may contract with
28 one or more third parties for:

29 (a) The development, purchase, administration, scoring, and
30 reporting of scores of the assessments established by the Washington
31 professional educator standards board under subsections (1)~~((7))~~ and
32 (2)~~((7 and 3))~~ of this section;

33 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

34 (c) Any combination of the purposes in this subsection.

35 ~~((8))~~ (7) Applicants for admission to a Washington teacher
36 preparation program and applicants for residency ~~((and professional))~~
37 certificates who are required to successfully complete one or more of
38 the assessments under subsections (1)~~((7))~~ and (2)~~((7 and 3))~~ of
39 this section, and who are charged a fee for the assessment by a third
40 party contracted with under subsection ~~((7))~~ (6) of this section,

1 shall pay the fee charged by the contractor directly to the
2 contractor. Such fees shall be reasonably related to the actual costs
3 of the contractor in providing the assessment.

4 ~~((+9))~~ (8) The superintendent of public instruction is
5 responsible for supervision and providing support services to
6 administer this section.

7 ~~((+10))~~ (9) The Washington professional educator standards board
8 shall collaboratively select or develop and implement the assessments
9 and minimum assessment scores required under this section with the
10 superintendent of public instruction and shall provide opportunities
11 for representatives of other interested educational organizations to
12 participate in the selection or development and implementation of
13 such assessments in a manner deemed appropriate by the Washington
14 professional educator standards board.

15 ~~((+11))~~ (10) The Washington professional educator standards
16 board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are reasonably
17 necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of this
18 section.

19 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.410.250 and 2016 c 233 s 4 are each amended to
20 read as follows:

21 The agency responsible for educator certification shall adopt
22 rules for professional certification that:

23 (1) Provide maximum program choice for applicants, promote
24 portability among programs, and promote maximum efficiency for
25 applicants in attaining professional certification;

26 (2) Require professional certification no earlier than the fifth
27 year following the year that the teacher first completes provisional
28 status, with an automatic two-year extension upon enrollment;

29 (3) Meet the requirements described in section 2 of this act for
30 professional certification for teachers and as described in section 1
31 of this act for administrators;

32 (4) Grant professional certification to any teacher who attains
33 certification from the national board for professional teaching
34 standards;

35 ~~((+4))~~ (5) Permit any teacher currently enrolled in or
36 participating in a program leading to professional certification to
37 continue the program under administrative rules in place when the
38 teacher began the program;

1 ~~((5))~~ (6) Provide criteria for the approval of educational
2 service districts(~~(, beginning no later than August 31, 2007,)~~) to
3 offer programs leading to professional certification. The rules shall
4 be written to encourage institutions of higher education and
5 educational service districts to partner with local school districts
6 or consortia of school districts, as appropriate, to provide
7 instruction for ~~((teachers))~~ individuals seeking professional
8 certification;

9 ~~((6))~~ (7) Encourage institutions of higher education to offer
10 professional certificate coursework as continuing education credit
11 hours. This shall not prevent an institution of higher education from
12 providing the option of including the professional certification
13 requirements as part of a master's degree program;

14 ~~((7))~~ (8) Provide criteria for a liaison relationship between
15 approved programs and school districts in which applicants are
16 employed;

17 ~~((8))~~ (9) Identify an expedited professional certification
18 process for out-of-state teachers who have five years or more of
19 successful teaching experience, including a method to determine the
20 comparability of rigor between the Washington professional
21 certification process and the advanced level teacher certification
22 process of other states. A professional certificate must be issued to
23 these experienced out-of-state teachers if the teacher holds: (a) A
24 valid teaching certificate issued by the national board for
25 professional teaching standards; or (b) an advanced level teacher
26 certificate from another state that has been determined to be
27 comparable to the Washington professional certificate; and

28 ~~((9))~~ (10) Identify an evaluation process of approved programs
29 that includes a review of the program coursework and applicant
30 coursework load requirements, linkages of programs to individual
31 teacher professional growth plans, linkages to school district and
32 school improvement plans, and, to the extent possible, linkages to
33 school district professional enrichment and growth programs for
34 teachers, where such programs are in place in school districts. The
35 agency shall provide a preliminary report on the evaluation process
36 to the senate and house of representatives committees on education
37 policy by November 1, 2005. The board shall identify:

38 (a) A process for awarding conditional approval of a program that
39 shall include annual evaluations of the program until the program is
40 awarded full approval;

1 (b) A less intensive evaluation cycle every three years once a
2 program receives full approval unless the responsible agency has
3 reason to intensify the evaluation;

4 (c) A method for investigating programs that have received
5 numerous complaints from students enrolled in the program and from
6 those recently completing the program;

7 (d) A method for investigating programs at the reasonable
8 discretion of the agency; and

9 (e) A method for using, in the evaluation, both program completer
10 satisfaction responses and data on the impact of educators who have
11 obtained professional certification on student work and achievement.

12 **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.410.270 and 2009 c 548 s 402 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1)(a) (~~By January 1, 2010,~~) The professional educator
15 standards board shall adopt a set of articulated teacher knowledge,
16 skill, and performance standards for effective teaching that are
17 evidence-based, measurable, meaningful, and documented in high
18 quality research as being associated with improved student learning.
19 The standards shall be calibrated for each level (~~of certification~~
20 ~~and~~) along the entire career continuum. In developing the standards,
21 the board shall, to the extent possible, incorporate standards for
22 cultural competency along the entire continuum. For the purposes of
23 this subsection, "cultural competency" includes knowledge of student
24 cultural histories and contexts, as well as family norms and values
25 in different cultures; knowledge and skills in accessing community
26 resources and community and parent outreach; and skills in adapting
27 instruction to students' experiences and identifying cultural
28 contexts for individual students.

29 (b) (~~By January 1, 2010,~~) The professional educator standards
30 board shall adopt a definition of master teacher, with a comparable
31 level of increased competency between professional certification
32 level and master level as between professional certification level
33 and national board certification. Within the definition established
34 by the professional educator standards board, teachers certified
35 through the national board for professional teaching standards shall
36 be considered master teachers.

37 (2) (~~By January 1, 2010, the professional educator standards~~
38 ~~board shall submit to the governor and the education and fiscal~~
39 ~~committees of the legislature;~~

1 ~~(a) An update on the status of implementation of the professional~~
2 ~~certificate external and uniform assessment authorized in RCW~~
3 ~~28A.410.210;~~

4 ~~(b) A proposal for a uniform, statewide, valid, and reliable~~
5 ~~classroom-based means of evaluating teacher effectiveness as a~~
6 ~~culminating measure at the preservice level that is to be used during~~
7 ~~the student-teaching field experience. This assessment shall include~~
8 ~~multiple measures of teacher performance in classrooms, evidence of~~
9 ~~positive impact on student learning, and shall include review of~~
10 ~~artifacts, such as use of a variety of assessment and instructional~~
11 ~~strategies, and student work. The proposal shall establish a timeline~~
12 ~~for when the assessment will be required for successful completion of~~
13 ~~a Washington state-approved teacher preparation program. The timeline~~
14 ~~shall take into account the capacity of the K-12 education and higher~~
15 ~~education systems to accommodate the new assessment. The proposal and~~
16 ~~timeline shall also address how the assessment will be included in~~
17 ~~state-reported data on preparation program quality; and~~

18 ~~(c) A recommendation on the length of time that a residency~~
19 ~~certificate issued to a teacher is valid and within what time period~~
20 ~~a teacher must meet the minimum level of performance for and receive~~
21 ~~a professional certificate in order to continue being certified as a~~
22 ~~teacher. In developing this recommendation, the professional educator~~
23 ~~standards board shall consult with interested stakeholders including~~
24 ~~the Washington education association, the Washington association of~~
25 ~~school administrators, association of Washington school principals,~~
26 ~~and the Washington state school directors' association and shall~~
27 ~~include with its recommendation a description of each stakeholder's~~
28 ~~comments on the recommendation.~~

29 ~~(3) The update and proposal in subsection (2)(a) and (b) of this~~
30 ~~section shall include, at a minimum, descriptions of:~~

31 ~~(a) Estimated costs and statutory authority needed for further~~
32 ~~development and implementation of these assessments;~~

33 ~~(b) A common and standardized rubric for determining whether a~~
34 ~~teacher meets the minimum level of performance of the assessments;~~
35 ~~and~~

36 ~~(c) Administration and management of the assessments.~~

37 ~~(4) To the extent that funds are appropriated for this purpose~~
38 ~~and in accordance with the timeline established in subsection (2) of~~
39 ~~this section, recognizing the capacity limitations of the education~~
40 ~~systems, the professional educator standards board shall develop the~~

1 ~~system and process as established in subsections (1), (2), and (3) of~~
2 ~~this section throughout the remainder of the 2010-11 and 2011-12~~
3 ~~school years.~~

4 ~~(5) Beginning no earlier than September 1, 2011, award of a~~
5 ~~professional certificate shall be based on a minimum of two years of~~
6 ~~successful teaching experience as defined by the board and on the~~
7 ~~results of the evaluation authorized under RCW 28A.410.210(14) and~~
8 ~~under this section, and may not require candidates to enroll in a~~
9 ~~professional certification program.~~

10 ~~(6) Beginning July 1, 2011,)~~ Educator preparation programs
11 approved to offer the residency teaching certificate shall be
12 required to demonstrate how the program produces effective teachers
13 as evidenced by the measures established under this section and other
14 criteria established by the professional educator standards board.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.410
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The professional educator collaborative is established to
18 review the integration of, and smooth the transitions between,
19 educator certificates, and to make recommendations on how to improve
20 and strengthen the pathways that lead to highly effective educators
21 at each level of the public school system. The collaborative must
22 look broadly at the issues surrounding educator recruitment,
23 retention, professional learning, and evaluation for effectiveness,
24 and must consider the incentives and supports that should be provided
25 at each stage of an educator's career. The collaborative must also
26 review certification requirements that are not consistent with, or
27 are duplicative of, evaluation requirements. In addition, the
28 collaborative must make recommendations on how to improve the
29 reciprocity between Washington's educator certificates and the
30 educator certificates of other states.

31 (2) The members of the collaborative must include representatives
32 of the following organizations:

33 (a) The two largest caucuses of the senate and the house of
34 representatives, appointed by the majority and minority leaders of
35 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives,
36 respectively;

37 (b) The professional educator standards board;

38 (c) The office of the superintendent of public instruction;

1 (d) Professional educator standards board-approved educator
2 preparation programs;

3 (e) The Washington state school directors' association;

4 (f) The Washington education association;

5 (g) The Washington association of school administrators;

6 (h) The association of Washington school principals; and

7 (i) Other educator associations.

8 (3) Staff support for the collaborative must be provided by the
9 professional educator standards board.

10 (4) The collaborative must contract with a nonprofit, nonpartisan
11 institute that conducts independent, high quality research to improve
12 education policy and practice and that works with policymakers,
13 researchers, educators, and others to advance evidence-based policies
14 that support equitable learning for each child.

15 (5) Legislative members of the collaborative are reimbursed for
16 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
17 members are not entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses if they
18 are elected officials or are participating on behalf of an employer,
19 governmental entity, or other organization. Any reimbursement for
20 other nonlegislative members is subject to chapter 43.03 RCW.

21 (6)(a) By November 1, 2019, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
22 the collaborative shall submit a preliminary report to the education
23 committees of the legislature that describes the activities of the
24 collaborative to date, and includes any preliminary recommendations
25 agreed to by the collaborative.

26 (b) By November 1, 2020, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036,
27 the collaborative shall submit a final report to the education
28 committees of the legislature that makes recommendations on how to
29 improve and strengthen the pathways that lead to highly effective
30 educators at each level of the public school system.

31 (7) This section expires August 31, 2021.

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