
SENATE BILL 5858

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senator Fain

Read first time 02/27/17. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

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 one hundred fifty approved professional
3 development credits within five years following the year that the
4 teacher first completes provisional status, and require that teachers
5 at the elementary and secondary levels in STEM-related subjects who
6 use this professional certification option earn credits focusing on
7 the 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 one hundred eighty approved
12 professional development credits within six years following the year
13 that the 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 this subsection (4) on a case-by-case basis.

10 (c) The board shall provide for reasonable accommodations for
11 individuals who are required to take the assessment required in this
12 subsection (4) if the individuals have learning or other
13 disabilities.

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

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

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

29 (g) Applicants for professional certificates who are required to
30 successfully complete the assessment required in this subsection (4)
31 and who are charged a fee for the assessment by a third party
32 contracted with under (f) of this subsection shall pay the fee
33 charged by the contractor directly to the contractor. Such fees must
34 be reasonably related to the actual costs of the contractor in
35 providing the assessment.

36 (h) The award of a professional certificate under this subsection
37 (4) must be based on a minimum of two years of successful teaching
38 experience as defined by the board and on the results of the
39 evaluation authorized under this subsection and may not require
40 candidates to enroll in a professional certification program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 (4) Establish policies for approval of nontraditional educator
35 preparation programs;

36 (5) Conduct a review of educator program approval standards at
37 least every five years, beginning in 2006, to reflect research
38 findings and assure continued improvement of preparation programs for
39 teachers, administrators, and school specialized personnel;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 ~~(14))~~) Conduct meetings under the provisions of chapter 42.30
35 RCW.

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

38 (1)(a) Beginning not later than September 1, 2001, the Washington
39 professional educator standards board shall make available and pilot

1 a means of assessing an applicant's knowledge in the basic skills.
2 For the purposes of this section, "basic skills" means the subjects
3 of at least reading, writing, and mathematics. Beginning September 1,
4 2002, except as provided in (c) and (d) of this subsection and
5 subsection ~~((+4))~~ (3) of this section, passing this assessment shall
6 be required for admission to approved teacher preparation programs
7 and for persons from out-of-state applying for a Washington state
8 residency teaching certificate.

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

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

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

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

38 ~~(3) Beginning not later than September 1, 2002,)~~ The Washington
39 professional educator standards board shall provide for ~~((the initial
40 piloting and implementation of))~~ a means of assessing an applicant's

1 knowledge in the subjects for which the applicant has applied for an
2 endorsement to his or her residency (~~(or professional)~~) teaching
3 certificate. The assessment of subject knowledge shall not include
4 instructional methodology. (~~(Beginning September 1, 2005,)~~) Passing
5 this assessment (~~(shall be)~~) is required to receive an endorsement
6 for certification purposes.

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

11 (~~(+5)~~) (4) The Washington professional educator standards board
12 shall provide for reasonable accommodations for individuals who are
13 required to take the assessments in subsection (1)(~~(7)~~) or (2)(~~(7 or~~
14 ~~3)~~) of this section if the individuals have learning or other
15 disabilities.

16 (~~(+6)~~) (5) With the exception of applicants exempt from the
17 requirements of subsections (1)(~~(7)~~) and (2)(~~(7 and 3)~~) of this
18 section, an applicant must achieve a minimum assessment score or
19 scores established by the Washington professional educator standards
20 board on each of the assessments under subsections (1)(~~(7)~~) and (2)
21 (~~(7 and 3)~~) of this section.

22 (~~(+7)~~) (6) The Washington professional educator standards board
23 and superintendent of public instruction, as determined by the
24 Washington professional educator standards board, may contract with
25 one or more third parties for:

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

30 (b) Related clerical and administrative activities; or

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

32 (~~(+8)~~) (7) Applicants for admission to a Washington teacher
33 preparation program and applicants for residency (~~(and professional)~~)
34 certificates who are required to successfully complete one or more of
35 the assessments under subsections (1)(~~(7)~~) and (2)(~~(7 and 3)~~) of
36 this section, and who are charged a fee for the assessment by a third
37 party contracted with under subsection (~~(+7)~~) (6) of this section,
38 shall pay the fee charged by the contractor directly to the
39 contractor. Such fees shall be reasonably related to the actual costs
40 of the contractor in providing the assessment.

1 ~~((9))~~ (8) The superintendent of public instruction is
2 responsible for supervision and providing support services to
3 administer this section.

4 ~~((10))~~ (9) The Washington professional educator standards board
5 shall collaboratively select or develop and implement the assessments
6 and minimum assessment scores required under this section with the
7 superintendent of public instruction and shall provide opportunities
8 for representatives of other interested educational organizations to
9 participate in the selection or development and implementation of
10 such assessments in a manner deemed appropriate by the Washington
11 professional educator standards board.

12 ~~((11))~~ (10) The Washington professional educator standards
13 board shall adopt rules under chapter 34.05 RCW that are reasonably
14 necessary for the effective and efficient implementation of this
15 section.

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

18 The agency responsible for educator certification shall adopt
19 rules for professional certification that:

20 (1) Provide maximum program choice for applicants, promote
21 portability among programs, and promote maximum efficiency for
22 applicants in attaining professional certification;

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

26 (3) Meet the requirements described in section 2 of this act for
27 professional certification for teachers and as described in section 1
28 of this act for administrators;

29 (4) Grant professional certification to any teacher who attains
30 certification from the national board for professional teaching
31 standards;

32 ~~((4))~~ (5) Permit any teacher currently enrolled in or
33 participating in a program leading to professional certification to
34 continue the program under administrative rules in place when the
35 teacher began the program;

36 ~~((5))~~ (6) Provide criteria for the approval of educational
37 service districts(~~(, beginning no later than August 31, 2007,)~~) to
38 offer programs leading to professional certification. The rules shall
39 be written to encourage institutions of higher education and

1 educational service districts to partner with local school districts
2 or consortia of school districts, as appropriate, to provide
3 instruction for (~~teachers~~) individuals seeking professional
4 certification;

5 (~~(6)~~) (7) Encourage institutions of higher education to offer
6 professional certificate coursework as continuing education credit
7 hours. This shall not prevent an institution of higher education from
8 providing the option of including the professional certification
9 requirements as part of a master's degree program;

10 (~~(7)~~) (8) Provide criteria for a liaison relationship between
11 approved programs and school districts in which applicants are
12 employed;

13 (~~(8)~~) (9) Identify an expedited professional certification
14 process for out-of-state teachers who have five years or more of
15 successful teaching experience, including a method to determine the
16 comparability of rigor between the Washington professional
17 certification process and the advanced level teacher certification
18 process of other states. A professional certificate must be issued to
19 these experienced out-of-state teachers if the teacher holds: (a) A
20 valid teaching certificate issued by the national board for
21 professional teaching standards; or (b) an advanced level teacher
22 certificate from another state that has been determined to be
23 comparable to the Washington professional certificate; and

24 (~~(9)~~) (10) Identify an evaluation process of approved programs
25 that includes a review of the program coursework and applicant
26 coursework load requirements, linkages of programs to individual
27 teacher professional growth plans, linkages to school district and
28 school improvement plans, and, to the extent possible, linkages to
29 school district professional enrichment and growth programs for
30 teachers, where such programs are in place in school districts. The
31 agency shall provide a preliminary report on the evaluation process
32 to the senate and house of representatives committees on education
33 policy by November 1, 2005. The board shall identify:

34 (a) A process for awarding conditional approval of a program that
35 shall include annual evaluations of the program until the program is
36 awarded full approval;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

37 ~~(a) An update on the status of implementation of the professional~~
38 ~~certificate external and uniform assessment authorized in RCW~~
39 ~~28A.410.210;~~

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

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

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

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

30 ~~(b) A common and standardized rubric for determining whether a~~
31 ~~teacher meets the minimum level of performance of the assessments;~~
32 ~~and~~

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

34 ~~(4) To the extent that funds are appropriated for this purpose~~
35 ~~and in accordance with the timeline established in subsection (2) of~~
36 ~~this section, recognizing the capacity limitations of the education~~
37 ~~systems, the professional educator standards board shall develop the~~
38 ~~system and process as established in subsections (1), (2), and (3) of~~
39 ~~this section throughout the remainder of the 2010-11 and 2011-12~~
40 ~~school years.~~

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

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

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

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

28 (2) The members of the collaborative must include representatives
29 of the following organizations:

30 (a) The two largest caucuses of the senate and the house of
31 representatives, appointed by the majority and minority leaders of
32 the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives,
33 respectively;

34 (b) The professional educator standards board;

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

36 (d) Professional educator standards board-approved educator
37 preparation programs;

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

39 (f) The Washington education association;

- 1 (g) The Washington association of school administrators;
2 (h) The association of Washington school principals; and
3 (i) Other educator associations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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