
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6388

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education (originally sponsored by Senators Mullet and Rivers)

READ FIRST TIME 02/01/18.

1 AN ACT Relating to paraeducators; amending RCW 28A.413.040,
2 28A.413.060, 28A.413.070, and 28A.660.050; creating a new section;
3 and repealing RCW 28A.660.042.

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

5 **PARAEDUCATOR REQUIREMENTS**

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.413.040 and 2017 c 237 s 5 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 ~~((Effective September 1, 2018,))~~ (1)(a) A person working as a
9 paraeducator for a school district before or during the 2017-18
10 school year must meet the requirements of subsection (2) of this
11 section by the date of hire for the 2019-20 school year or any
12 subsequent school year.

13 (b) A person who has not previously worked as a paraeducator for
14 a school district must meet the requirements of subsection (2) of
15 this section by the date of hire for the 2018-19 school year or any
16 subsequent school year.

17 (2) The minimum employment requirements for paraeducators are as
18 provided in this subsection. ((The)) A paraeducator must:

19 ~~((1))~~ (a) Be at least eighteen years of age and hold a high
20 school diploma or its equivalent; and

1 ~~((2)(a))~~ (b)(i) Have received a passing grade on the education
2 testing service paraeducator assessment; or
3 ~~((b))~~ (ii) Hold an associate of arts degree; or
4 ~~((c))~~ (iii) Have earned seventy-two quarter credits or forty-
5 eight semester credits at an institution of higher education; or
6 ~~((d))~~ (iv) Have completed a registered apprenticeship program.

7 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. By October 1, 2018, a school district that
8 does not receive funding under Title I of the federal elementary and
9 secondary education act of 1965 must report to the paraeducator board
10 with the following information about paraeducators hired by the
11 school district for the 2018-19 school year, as of September 1, 2018:
12 The total number of paraeducators and the number who meet the minimum
13 employment requirements provided in RCW 28A.413.040.

14 Sec. 3. RCW 28A.413.060 and 2017 c 237 s 7 are each amended to
15 read as follows:

16 (1) ~~((Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for
17 this specific purpose, beginning September 1, 2019,))~~ School
18 districts must implement this section only in school years for which
19 state funding is appropriated specifically for the purposes of this
20 section and only for the number of days that are funded by the
21 appropriation.

22 (2) School districts must provide a four-day fundamental course
23 of study on the state standards of practice, as defined by the board,
24 to paraeducators who have not completed the course, either in the
25 district or in another district within the state. School districts
26 must use best efforts to provide the fundamental course of study
27 before the paraeducator begins to work with students and their
28 families, and at a minimum by the deadlines provided in subsection
29 ~~((2))~~ (3) of this section.

30 ~~((2))~~ (3) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, school
31 districts must provide the fundamental course of study required in
32 subsection ~~((1))~~ (2) of this section ~~((as follows))~~ by the
33 deadlines provided in (a) of this subsection:

34 (a)(i) For paraeducators hired on or before September 1st, by
35 September 30th of that year, regardless of the size of the district;
36 and

37 ~~((b))~~ (ii) For paraeducators hired after September 1st:

1 ~~((i))~~ (A) For districts with ten thousand or more students,
2 within four months of the date of hire; and

3 ~~((ii))~~ (B) For districts with fewer than ten thousand students,
4 no later than September 1st of the following year.

5 ~~((3))~~ (b)(i) For paraeducators hired for the 2018-19 school
6 year, by September 1, 2020; and

7 (ii) For paraeducators not hired for the 2018-19 school year, but
8 hired for the 2019-20 school year, by September 1, 2021.

9 (4) School districts may collaborate with other school districts
10 or educational service districts to meet the requirements of this
11 section.

12 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.413.070 and 2017 c 237 s 8 are each amended to
13 read as follows:

14 (1) School districts must implement this section only in school
15 years for which state funding is appropriated specifically for the
16 purposes of this section and only for the number of days that are
17 funded by the appropriation.

18 (2)(a) Paraeducators may become eligible for a general
19 paraeducator certificate by completing the four-day fundamental
20 course of study, as required under RCW 28A.413.060, and an additional
21 ten days of general courses, as defined by the board, on the state
22 paraeducator standards of practice, described in RCW 28A.413.050.

23 (b) Paraeducators are not required to meet the general
24 paraeducator certificate requirements under this subsection ~~((1))~~
25 (2) unless ~~((amounts are appropriated for the specific purposes of~~
26 ~~subsection (2) of this section and RCW 28A.413.060))~~ the courses
27 necessary to meet the requirements are funded by the state in
28 accordance with subsection (1) of this section and RCW
29 28A.413.060(1).

30 ~~((2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for~~
31 ~~this specific purpose,))~~ (3) Beginning September 1, 2019, school
32 districts must:

33 (a) Provide paraeducators with general courses on the state
34 paraeducator standards of practice; and

35 (b) Ensure all paraeducators employed by the district meet the
36 general certification requirements of this section within three years
37 of completing the four-day fundamental course of study.

38 ~~((3))~~ (4) The general paraeducator certificate does not expire.

1 PIPELINE FOR PARAEDUCATORS CONDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

2 Sec. 5. RCW 28A.660.050 and 2016 c 233 s 14 are each amended to
3 read as follows:

4 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
5 specific purpose, the conditional scholarship programs in this
6 chapter are created under the following guidelines:

7 (1) The programs shall be administered by the student achievement
8 council. In administering the programs, the council has the following
9 powers and duties:

10 (a) To adopt necessary rules and develop guidelines to administer
11 the programs;

12 (b) To collect and manage repayments from participants who do not
13 meet their service obligations; and

14 (c) To accept grants and donations from public and private
15 sources for the programs.

16 (2) Requirements for participation in the conditional scholarship
17 programs are as provided in this subsection (2).

18 (a) The alternative route conditional scholarship program is
19 limited to interns of professional educator standards board-approved
20 alternative route teacher certification programs under ((RCW
21 ~~28A.660.040~~)) RCW 28A.660.020. For fiscal year 2011, priority must be
22 given to fiscal year 2010 participants in the alternative route
23 partnership program. In order to receive conditional scholarship
24 awards, recipients shall:

25 (i) Be accepted and maintain enrollment in an alternative route
26 teacher certification program through a professional educator
27 standards board-approved program;

28 (ii) Continue to make satisfactory progress toward completion of
29 the alternative route teacher certification program and receipt of a
30 residency teaching certificate; and

31 (iii) Receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship,
32 not to exceed eight thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, fees,
33 and educational expenses, including books, supplies, and
34 transportation for the alternative route teacher certification
35 program in which the recipient is enrolled. The council may adjust
36 the annual award by the average rate of resident undergraduate
37 tuition and fee increases at the state universities as defined in RCW
38 28B.10.016.

1 (b) The pipeline for paraeducators conditional scholarship
2 program is limited to (~~qualified~~) paraeducators (~~as provided by~~
3 ~~RCW 28A.660.042~~) without a college degree who have experience as
4 defined by the professional educator standards board. In order to
5 receive conditional scholarship awards, recipients shall:

6 (i) Be accepted and maintain enrollment at a community and
7 technical college (~~for no more than two years and attain an~~
8 ~~associate of arts degree~~);

9 (ii) Continue to make satisfactory progress toward completion of
10 an associate of arts degree(~~. This progress requirement is a~~
11 ~~condition for eligibility into a route one program of the alternative~~
12 ~~route teacher certification program for an early childhood education,~~
13 ~~elementary education, mathematics, computer science, special~~
14 ~~education, bilingual education, or English as a second language~~
15 ~~endorsement~~) with an educational plan that includes enrollment in an
16 alternative route teacher certification program; and

17 (iii) Receive no more than the annual amount of the scholarship,
18 not to exceed four thousand dollars, for the cost of tuition, fees,
19 and educational expenses, including books, supplies, and
20 transportation (~~for the alternative route teacher certification~~
21 ~~program in which the recipient is enrolled~~). The (~~student~~
22 ~~achievement council may adjust the annual~~) award may be adjusted
23 annually by the average rate of tuition and fee increases at the
24 state community and technical colleges.

25 (c) The educator retooling conditional scholarship program is
26 limited to current K-12 teachers. In order to receive conditional
27 scholarship awards:

28 (i) Individuals currently employed as teachers shall pursue an
29 endorsement in a subject or geographic endorsement shortage area, as
30 defined by the professional educator standards board, including but
31 not limited to mathematics, science, special education, elementary
32 education, early childhood education, bilingual education, English
33 language learner, computer science education, or environmental and
34 sustainability education; or

35 (ii) Individuals who are certificated with an elementary
36 education endorsement shall pursue an endorsement in a subject or
37 geographic endorsement shortage area, as defined by the professional
38 educator standards board, including but not limited to mathematics,
39 science, special education, bilingual education, English language

1 learner, computer science education, or environmental and
2 sustainability education; and

3 (iii) Individuals shall use one of the pathways to endorsement
4 processes to receive an endorsement in a subject or geographic
5 endorsement shortage area, as defined by the professional educator
6 standards board, including but not limited to mathematics, science,
7 special education, bilingual education, English language learner,
8 computer science education, or environmental and sustainability
9 education, which shall include passing an endorsement test plus
10 observation and completing applicable coursework to attain the proper
11 endorsement; and

12 (iv) Individuals shall receive no more than the annual amount of
13 the scholarship, not to exceed three thousand dollars, for the cost
14 of tuition, test fees, and educational expenses, including books,
15 supplies, and transportation for the endorsement pathway being
16 pursued.

17 (3) The Washington professional educator standards board shall
18 select individuals to receive conditional scholarships. In selecting
19 recipients, preference shall be given to eligible veterans or
20 national guard members. In awarding conditional scholarships to
21 support additional bilingual education or English language learner
22 endorsements, the board shall also give preference to teachers
23 assigned to schools required under state or federal accountability
24 measures to implement a plan for improvement, and to teachers
25 assigned to schools whose enrollment of English language learner
26 students has increased an average of more than five percent per year
27 over the previous three years.

28 (4) For the purpose of this chapter, a conditional scholarship is
29 a loan that is forgiven in whole or in part in exchange for service
30 as a certificated teacher employed in a Washington state K-12 public
31 school. The state shall forgive one year of loan obligation for every
32 two years a recipient teaches in a public school. Recipients who fail
33 to continue a course of study leading to residency teacher
34 certification or cease to teach in a public school in the state of
35 Washington in their endorsement area are required to repay the
36 remaining loan principal with interest.

37 (5) Recipients who fail to fulfill the required teaching
38 obligation are required to repay the remaining loan principal with
39 interest and any other applicable fees. The student achievement

1 council shall adopt rules to define the terms for repayment,
2 including applicable interest rates, fees, and deferments.

3 (6) The student achievement council may deposit all
4 appropriations, collections, and any other funds received for the
5 program in this chapter in the future teachers conditional
6 scholarship account authorized in RCW 28B.102.080.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** RCW 28A.660.042 (Pipeline for
8 paraeducators conditional scholarship program) and 2017 c 237 s 19 &
9 2007 c 396 s 6 are each repealed.

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