
HOUSE BILL 1454

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Pollet, Senn, Slatter, Bergquist, Kloba, Thai, Valdez, Doglio, and Tarleton

Read first time 01/22/19. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to designing a coordinated and responsive system
2 for meeting the diverse needs of students with disabilities; adding
3 new sections to chapter 28A.630 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
4 28A.155 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 28A.300 RCW; providing
5 an effective date; and providing expiration dates.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The office of the superintendent of
8 public instruction must convene an advisory group to design a
9 coordinated and responsive system for meeting the diverse needs of
10 students with disabilities.

11 (2) The advisory group must:

12 (a) Review state and federal laws and state policies related to
13 special education, including those related to least restrictive
14 environment;

15 (b) Review research on the following topics:

16 (i) Improving achievement and postsecondary outcomes for students
17 with disabilities;

18 (ii) Creating an inclusive educational environment;

19 (iii) Best practices to provide a continuum of services for
20 special education students;

1 (iv) Effective implementation at the school district office,
2 through the building principal, and using teacher teams;

3 (v) Best practices to train teachers and paraeducators on the use
4 of inclusive educational practices; and

5 (vi) The costs of implementing and maintaining an inclusive
6 education model compared to the current model;

7 (c) Establish a common language, including use of the following
8 terms:

9 (i) Continuum of services;

10 (ii) Coteaching;

11 (iii) Strategic intervention;

12 (iv) General education provision of specially designed
13 instruction;

14 (v) Adult support models and plans;

15 (d) Review, discuss, and plan for the realities of implementing
16 inclusive education practices;

17 (e) Develop an inclusive education implementation plan template
18 to be used by local education agencies interested in applying for
19 designation as a special education demonstration project under
20 section 2 of this act. The template must include components of the
21 application described in section 2(2) of this act and must specify
22 that the inclusive education implementation plan must:

23 (i) Only be implemented in schools where the principal is in full
24 support of inclusive education practices;

25 (ii) Create a building coalition to support implementation;

26 (iii) Provide staff with support and training;

27 (iv) Celebrate student and staff achievement; and

28 (v) Provide staff release time for planning and collaboration;

29 (f) Develop an inclusive education guidance document for local
30 education agencies based on best practices learned from the special
31 education demonstration projects designated under section 2 of this
32 act;

33 (g) Recommend a technical assistance structure and a professional
34 learning structure to support local education agencies in improving
35 instructional practices and systems of meeting the diverse needs of
36 students with disabilities; and

37 (h) Review the feedback from educators, students, and families
38 gathered by the special education demonstration projects designated
39 under section 2 of this act.

1 (3) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
2 appoint the following members to the advisory group:

3 (a) One representative each of the following groups at the office
4 of the superintendent of public instruction:

5 (i) The special education department;

6 (ii) The learning and teaching department;

7 (iii) The center for the improvement of student learning,
8 established under RCW 28A.300.130; and

9 (iv) The special education advisory council;

10 (b) A representative of the University of Washington's
11 disabilities, opportunities, internetworking, and technology center;

12 (c) A representative of Central Washington University's special
13 education technology center;

14 (d) A representative of the professional educator standards
15 board;

16 (e) A parent of a student receiving special education services;

17 (f) Three individuals who represent organizations advocating for
18 equity, access, and improving outcomes for students with
19 disabilities, with one individual representing each of the following
20 disability perspectives: Intellectual or developmental, mental health
21 or physical health, and learning disability. The selected individuals
22 must be either an individual with a disability or a parent of a
23 student receiving, or who has received, special education services.
24 At least one of the selected individuals must be familiar with
25 research on inclusive education or improving outcomes for students
26 with disabilities;

27 (g) A representative of the office of the education ombuds; and

28 (h) One or two representatives each from the special education
29 demonstration projects designated under section 2 of this act.

30 (4) The members of the advisory group must select cochairs. One
31 cochair must provide the perspective of individuals with disabilities
32 and the other cochair must provide the perspective of educators.

33 (5) By December 1, 2019, and by December 1st each year
34 thereafter, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the advisory group
35 must coordinate with the office of the superintendent of public
36 instruction to submit a report to the appropriate committees of the
37 legislature. The report must summarize the advisory group's
38 activities over the prior year and the progress of the special
39 education demonstration projects designated under section 2 of this
40 act. The report must also recommend any changes to state laws or

1 policies necessary to support the improvement of instructional
2 practices and systems to meet the diverse needs of students with
3 disabilities, such as changes related to inclusive education
4 practices, regional and school-level coordination, educator release
5 time, school climate and culture, professional learning, use of
6 multitiered systems of support, and blending resource streams.

7 (6) Staff support for the advisory group must be provided by the
8 office of the superintendent of public instruction.

9 (7) The advisory group must meet at least quarterly.

10 (8) This section expires August 1, 2023.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) By September 1, 2019, the office of
12 the superintendent of public instruction must develop, and broadly
13 publicize, a process for local education associations to apply to
14 have one or more schools designated as a special education
15 demonstration project.

16 (2) Local education agencies interested in having one or more
17 schools designated as a special education demonstration project must
18 submit an application to the office of the superintendent of public
19 instruction by January 6, 2020. The application must be developed in
20 collaboration with educators, parents of students with disabilities,
21 and community partners. The local education agency must use the
22 inclusive education implementation plan template developed by the
23 advisory group described in section 1 of this act to:

24 (a) Define the scope of the special education demonstration
25 project and describe why designation would support the school's
26 ability to improve its instructional practices and systems to meet
27 the diverse needs of students with disabilities;

28 (b) Enumerate specific, research-based, inclusive education
29 practices to be carried out under the designation;

30 (c) Justify each request for waiver of state statutes or
31 administrative rules as provided under section 3 of this act;

32 (d) Justify any requests for waiver of state statutes or
33 administrative rules that are in addition to the waivers authorized
34 under section 3 of this act that are necessary to carry out the
35 proposal;

36 (e) Identify additional training and supports that will be
37 provided to staff at the local education agency;

1 (f) Include a written statement that the governing board and
2 administrators are willing to exempt the local education agency from
3 specifically identified local rules, as needed;

4 (g) Include a written statement that the governing board and
5 local bargaining agents will modify those portions of their local
6 agreements as applicable for the local education agency; and

7 (h) Include written statements of support from the governing
8 board and administrators, the principal and staff, each local
9 employee association affected by the special education demonstration
10 project proposal, and the local parent organization.

11 (3) (a) The office of the superintendent of public instruction, in
12 collaboration with its special education advisory council, must
13 develop criteria for reviewing the applications and for evaluating
14 the need for waivers of state statutes and administrative rules as
15 provided under section 3 of this act.

16 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
17 review the applications and select up to five local education
18 agencies to designate as special education demonstration projects.
19 The selected local education agencies must be diverse in geography
20 and size. One of the selected local education agencies must have a
21 school or program that removes students receiving special education
22 from the regular class for eighty percent or more of the school day.

23 (c) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
24 notify the applicants of its selection by February 21, 2020.

25 (4) The designation of the selected schools as special education
26 demonstration projects begins in the 2020-21 school year and lasts
27 for two school years.

28 (5) The schools selected as special education demonstration
29 projects must:

30 (a) Execute the inclusive education implementation plan approved
31 by the office of the superintendent of public instruction;

32 (b) Form collaborative learning teams of teachers with similar
33 grade levels and content areas to help implement the special
34 education demonstration project at the classroom level;

35 (c) Form an advisory committee to oversee the demonstration
36 project, where the committee includes administrators, educators,
37 parents of students with disabilities, and community partners;

38 (d) Gather feedback from educators, students, and families on the
39 progress of the special education demonstration project toward
40 meeting the diverse needs of students with disabilities;

1 (e) Participate in the advisory group created under section 1 of
2 this act; and

3 (f) Report quarterly to the advisory group created under section
4 1 of this act and the office of the superintendent of public
5 instruction on the activities and progress of the special education
6 demonstration project in the prior year.

7 (6) This section expires August 1, 2023.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1)(a) The superintendent of public
9 instruction and the state board of education, each within the scope
10 of their statutory authority, may grant waivers of state statutes and
11 administrative rules for special education demonstration projects
12 designated under section 2 of this act, as follows:

13 (i) Waivers may be granted to permit the commingling of funds
14 appropriated by the legislature on a categorical basis for such
15 programs as special education, highly capable students, transitional
16 bilingual instruction, and learning assistance; and

17 (ii) Waivers may be granted of other administrative rules that in
18 the opinion of the superintendent of public instruction or the state
19 board of education are necessary to be waived in order to implement
20 the special education demonstration projects.

21 (b) Laws and rules related to the following topics may not be
22 waived: Public health, safety, and civil rights, including
23 protections for individuals with disabilities.

24 (2) At the request of a local education agency, the
25 superintendent of public instruction may petition the United States
26 department of education or other federal agencies to waive federal
27 regulations necessary to implement the special education
28 demonstration projects designated under section 2 of this act.

29 (3) Waivers may be granted under this section for a period not to
30 exceed the duration of the special education demonstration projects
31 designated under section 2 of this act.

32 (4) The superintendent of public instruction and the state board
33 of education must provide an expedited review of requests for waivers
34 for special education demonstration projects designated under section
35 2 of this act. Requests may be denied if the superintendent of public
36 instruction or the state board of education conclude that the waiver:

37 (a) Is likely to result in a decrease in academic achievement;

38 (b) Would jeopardize the receipt of state or federal funds that a
39 local education agency would otherwise be eligible to receive, unless

1 the local education agency submits a written authorization for the
2 waiver acknowledging that receipt of these funds may be jeopardized;
3 or

4 (c) Would violate state or federal laws or rules that are not
5 authorized to be waived.

6 (5) This section expires August 1, 2023.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.155
8 RCW to read as follows:

9 The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
10 establish a technical assistance program to provide resources and
11 best practice guidance on inclusive education practices and improving
12 outcomes for students with disabilities. The components of the
13 technical assistance program must be informed by the advisory group
14 created under section 1 of this act.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
18 identify meaningful indicators of progress toward eliminating the
19 most significant barriers to success, and disparities in outcomes,
20 for students with disabilities or special needs within ten years. The
21 indicators must be quantifiable and based on data that are regularly
22 and reliably collected statewide. For example, the indicators might
23 compare the data for all students to the following data for students
24 with an individualized education program or plan developed under
25 section 504 of the federal rehabilitation act of 1973:

- 26 (a) Educational opportunity gaps;
- 27 (b) Time spent in a general education classroom;
- 28 (c) Discipline rates and rates of restraint or isolation;
- 29 (d) Use of medicaid-funded school-based services;
- 30 (e) Training and curriculum; and
- 31 (f) Postsecondary education and employment outcomes.

32 (2) Beginning September 1, 2020, and by September 1st every even-
33 numbered year thereafter, and in compliance with RCW 43.01.036, the
34 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall report to
35 the appropriate committees of the legislature on the state's progress
36 toward eliminating the most significant barriers to success, and
37 disparities in outcomes, for students with disabilities or special
38 needs.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Section 4 of this act takes effect
2 September 1, 2021.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Sections 1 through 3 of this act are each
4 added to chapter 28A.630 RCW.

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