
HOUSE BILL 1496

State of Washington **66th Legislature** **2019 Regular Session**

By Representatives Dolan, Harris, Shewmake, Thai, Doglio, and Walen

Read first time 01/23/19. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a comprehensive initiative to
2 increase learning opportunities and improve educational outcomes in
3 climate science literacy; amending RCW 28A.230.020; adding a new
4 section to chapter 28A.415 RCW; creating a new section; providing an
5 effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that knowledge,
8 skills, and opportunities in science literacy, emphasizing climate
9 science, should be increased for all students in Washington. The
10 legislature intends to foster capacity between and among the
11 educational sectors to enable continuous and sustainable growth of
12 the learning and teaching of science literacy including climate
13 science literacy. The legislature intends to foster high quality
14 programs to increase the number of students in the kindergarten
15 through twelfth grade pipeline who are prepared and aspire to
16 continue to apply their understanding of how the world works within
17 and across science disciplines to improve the social, economic, and
18 environmental conditions of the local and global community, whether
19 it be at a college, university, or in the workforce.

20 (2) The legislature also finds that critical knowledge and
21 innovative strategies for effectively teaching climate science can be

1 strengthened by qualified community-based organizations. Community-
2 based organizations are uniquely positioned to assist formal K-12
3 educators to infuse locally relevant questions, problems, issues, and
4 opportunities so that students learn more about their community's
5 environment, assume a sense of stewardship to conserving fragile
6 ecosystems in a changing climate, and develop empathy for nonhuman
7 organisms. Community-based organizations will extend the classroom
8 learning by partnering and collaborating with school districts to
9 offer teachers learning experiences that can be implemented easily
10 with their students across the K-12 spectrum.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.230.020 and 2013 c 23 s 48 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 All common schools shall give instruction in reading,
14 handwriting, orthography, written and mental arithmetic, geography,
15 the history of the United States, English grammar, physiology and
16 hygiene with special reference to the effects of alcohol and drug
17 abuse on the human system, science with special reference to the
18 (~~environment~~) environmental and sustainability standards, and such
19 other studies as may be prescribed by rule of the superintendent of
20 public instruction. All teachers shall stress the importance of the
21 cultivation of manners, the fundamental principles of honesty, honor,
22 industry, and economy, the minimum requisites for good health
23 including the beneficial effect of physical exercise and methods to
24 prevent exposure to and transmission of sexually transmitted
25 diseases, and the worth of kindness to all living creatures and the
26 land. The prevention of child abuse may be offered as part of the
27 curriculum in the common schools.

28 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.415
29 RCW to read as follows:

30 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
31 specific purpose, the superintendent of public instruction must
32 establish and manage a grant program for nonprofit community-based
33 organizations and educational service districts to create and
34 implement plans to provide teacher training in next generation
35 science standards, including climate science standards. In
36 establishing and managing the grant program, the superintendent of
37 public instruction must use available learning resources and share

1 training resources as open educational resources in accordance with
2 RCW 28A.300.803.

3 (2) Grant awards must be prioritized for comprehensive and
4 targeted comprehensive schools and communities historically
5 underserved by climate science education. These communities may
6 include, but are not limited to, tribal nations, including tribal
7 compact schools, migrant students, schools with high free and
8 reduced-price lunch populations, rural and remote schools, students
9 in alternative learning education environments, students of color,
10 English language learner students, and students receiving special
11 education services.

12 (3) When selecting and prioritizing grant recipients, the
13 superintendent of public instruction may consider the applicant's
14 success in providing Washington teachers with professional
15 development related to student progress in achieving successful
16 understandings of climate science standards.

17 (4) For the purposes of this section:

18 (a) "Climate science" means the science and engineering
19 practices, cross-cutting concepts, and disciplinary core ideas found
20 in the Washington state science standards that lead a student toward
21 climate science literacy, specifically, and science literacy, more
22 generally.

23 (b) To provide focus and clarity to efforts to increase learning
24 opportunities and improve educational outcomes in science and
25 sustainability literacy with an emphasis on climate science, "climate
26 science literacy" means an understanding of one's influence on
27 climate and climate's influence on individuals, society, and the
28 environment. A climate-literate person can: (i) Understand the
29 essential principles of the earth's climate system; (ii) know how to
30 assess scientifically credible information about climate; (iii)
31 communicate about climate and climate change in a meaningful way; and
32 (iv) make informed and responsible decisions with regard to actions
33 that may affect climate.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
35 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
36 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
37 effect July 1, 2019.

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