
HOUSE BILL 1658

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Representatives Paul, Steele, Bergquist, Harris, Santos, Callan, Appleton, Doglio, Pollet, and Young

Read first time 01/28/19. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to paraeducators; amending RCW 28A.413.060 and
2 28A.413.070; and adding a new section to chapter 28A.410 RCW.

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

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

6 The professional educator standards board must revise its rules
7 on limited certificates to allow for the issuance of a conditional
8 teaching certificate in special education to a paraeducator, as
9 defined in RCW 28A.413.010, who holds an unexpired subject matter
10 certificate in special education, under RCW 28A.413.080, to the same
11 extent to an individual with a bachelor's degree or higher from an
12 accredited college or university who is enrolled in an approved
13 teacher preparation program resulting in a teacher certificate with
14 an endorsement in special education.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.413.060 and 2018 c 153 s 3 are each amended to
16 read as follows:

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

1 (b) If state funding appropriated specifically for the purposes
2 of this section is sufficient for only one day of the four-day
3 fundamental course of study on the state standards of practice, as
4 defined by the board, then the one day of the course must be provided
5 in person. If state funding appropriated specifically for the
6 purposes of this section is sufficient for more than one day of the
7 four-day fundamental course of study on the state standards of
8 practice, as defined by the board, at least one day of the course
9 must be provided in person.

10 (2) School districts must provide a four-day fundamental course
11 of study on the state standards of practice, as defined by the board,
12 to paraeducators who have not completed the course, either in the
13 district or in another district within the state. School districts
14 must use best efforts to provide the fundamental course of study
15 before the paraeducator begins to work with students and their
16 families, and at a minimum by the deadlines provided in subsection
17 (3) of this section.

18 (3) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, school
19 districts must provide the fundamental course of study required in
20 subsection (2) of this section by the deadlines provided in (a) of
21 this subsection:

22 (a)(i) For paraeducators hired on or before September 1st, the
23 first two days of the fundamental course of study must be provided by
24 September 30th of that year and the second two days of the
25 fundamental course of study must be provided within six months of the
26 date of hire, regardless of the size of the district; and

27 (ii) For paraeducators hired after September 1st:

28 (A) For districts with ten thousand or more students, the first
29 two days of the fundamental course of study must be provided within
30 four months of the date of hire and the second two days of the
31 fundamental course of study must be provided within six months of the
32 date of hire or by September 1st of the following year, whichever is
33 sooner; and

34 (B) For districts with fewer than ten thousand students, no later
35 than September 1st of the following year.

36 (b)(i) For paraeducators hired for the 2018-19 school year, by
37 September 1, 2020; and

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

1 (4) School districts may collaborate with other school districts
2 or educational service districts to meet the requirements of this
3 section.

4 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.413.070 and 2018 c 153 s 4 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1)(a) School districts must implement this section only in
7 school years for which state funding is appropriated specifically for
8 the purposes of this section and only for the number of days that are
9 funded by the appropriation.

10 (b) School districts are encouraged to provide at least one day
11 of the ten days of general courses, as defined by the board, on the
12 state paraeducator standards of practice as a professional learning
13 day, where paraeducators collaborate with certified staff and other
14 classified staff on applicable courses.

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

20 (b) Paraeducators are not required to meet the general
21 paraeducator certificate requirements under this subsection (2)
22 unless the courses necessary to meet the requirements are funded by
23 the state in accordance with subsection (1) of this section and RCW
24 28A.413.060(1).

25 (3) Beginning September 1, 2019, school districts must:

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

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

31 (4) The general paraeducator certificate does not expire.

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