

---

**HOUSE BILL 2147**

---

**State of Washington**

**66th Legislature**

**2019 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Kraft, Young, and Shea

Read first time 03/18/19. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to ensuring that public school students have  
2 access to foundational texts; adding a new section to chapter 28A.230  
3 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) As established by the legislature, the  
6 goal of the state's program of basic education is to provide students  
7 with the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to  
8 meet graduation requirements and to graduate with a meaningful  
9 diploma that prepares them for postsecondary education, gainful  
10 employment, and citizenship. In establishing this goal, the  
11 legislature has recognized that basic education is a program of  
12 instruction that is intended to equip students for their role as  
13 productive citizens.

14 (2) Although the program of basic education changes, the  
15 legislature recognizes that certain concepts and principles are  
16 steadfast components of the society and culture that our education  
17 system prepares students to succeed in. Examples of those concepts  
18 and principles were adopted in RCW 28A.150.211 through chapter 245,  
19 Laws of 1994, and include: (a) Honesty, integrity, and trust; (b)  
20 respect for self and others; (c) responsibility for personal actions

1 and commitments; (d) diligence and a positive work ethic; (e) respect  
2 for law and authority; and (f) family as the basis of society.

3 (3) The legislature further recognizes that each school district  
4 has the legislatively established goal of providing opportunities for  
5 students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to, in part,  
6 know and apply the core concepts and principles of civics and  
7 history. As further acknowledgment of the importance of civics and  
8 history, the legislature requires students earning a high school  
9 diploma from both public and private high schools to study the  
10 Constitutions of the United States and the state of Washington.

11 (4) The legislature finds that to understand the history and  
12 founding documents of our nation and Washington state, one must  
13 recognize and understand the context in which actions to establish  
14 our nation and state were taken. Similarly, to understand the  
15 enduring concepts and principles upon which the architecture of our  
16 society rests, a person must recognize and understand the context in  
17 which those concepts and principles were developed and are  
18 maintained.

19 (5) The legislature, therefore, in seeking to provide students  
20 with the full canon of materials needed to promote independent,  
21 engaged, and successful citizens, intends to provide all public  
22 school students with access to texts that contextualize the  
23 establishment of our nation and state, and the concepts and  
24 principles of our society. These texts include, but are not limited  
25 to, the bible and other enduring texts that may be of a religious,  
26 moral, or historical nature.

27 (6) The legislature intends for actions taken to implement  
28 section 2 of this act to be consistent with the Constitution of the  
29 United States and the Washington state Constitution; including noting  
30 provisions that prohibit public money or property from being  
31 appropriated for or applied to any religious worship.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.230  
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 (1) The board of directors of every school district and each  
35 charter public school shall ensure that students have access, either  
36 electronically or in printed form, to texts that contextualize the  
37 establishment of our nation and state, and the concepts and  
38 principles of our society. These texts include, but are not limited  
39 to, the bible, the Constitution of the United States and the

1 Washington state Constitution, and other enduring texts that may be  
2 of a religious, moral, or historical nature.

3 (2) Each board of directors and each charter school may receive  
4 gifts, grants, or endowments from public or private sources for the  
5 purposes of complying with the requirements of this section.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** This act may be known and cited as the  
7 access to foundational texts act of 2019.

--- END ---