
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1878

State of Washington

67th Legislature

2022 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Riccelli, Berg, Bergquist, Berry, Leavitt, Maycumber, Santos, Stonier, Wicks, Peterson, Shewmake, Taylor, Gregerson, Ormsby, Lekanoff, Fitzgibbon, Orwall, Harris, Ramel, Thai, and Valdez)

READ FIRST TIME 02/07/22.

1 AN ACT Relating to increasing public school participation in the
2 community eligibility provision of the United States department of
3 agriculture; amending RCW 28A.235.300; creating a new section; and
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.235.300 and 2020 c 288 s 3 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1) (a) Except as provided otherwise by this section, each public
9 school ((with students in or below grade eight)) that has an
10 identified student percentage of at least ((sixty-two and one-half))
11 40 percent, or an identified student percentage of less than 40
12 percent if authorized by federal law, as determined annually by April
13 1st, must participate in the United States department of
14 agriculture's community eligibility provision in the subsequent
15 school year and throughout the duration of the community eligibility
16 provision's four-year cycle.

17 (b) School districts, to the extent practicable, shall group
18 public schools for purposes of maximizing the number of public
19 schools eligible to participate in the community eligibility
20 provision. Individual schools participating in a group may have less

1 than 40 percent identified students, provided the average identified
2 student percentage for the group is at least 40 percent.

3 (2) (~~Schools~~) Public schools that, through an arrangement with
4 a local entity, provide meals to all students and at no costs to the
5 students are exempt from the requirements of this section.

6 (3) This section governs school operation and management under
7 RCW 28A.710.040 and 28A.715.020, and applies to charter schools
8 established under chapter 28A.710 RCW and state-tribal education
9 compact schools established under chapter 28A.715 RCW to the same
10 extent as it applies to public schools and school districts.

11 (4) For the purposes of this section, "identified student" means
12 a student who is directly certified for free school meals based on
13 the student's participation in other means-tested assistance
14 programs, and students who are categorically eligible for free school
15 meals without an application and not subject to income verification.

16 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. If specific funding for the purposes of
17 section 1 of this act, referencing section 1 of this act by bill or
18 chapter number and section number, is not provided by June 30, 2022,
19 in the omnibus operating appropriations act, section 1 of this act is
20 null and void.

21 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. This act is necessary for the immediate
22 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
23 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
24 effect immediately.

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