

SHB 1277 - H AMD 51

By Representative Bergquist

ADOPTED 02/27/2023

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature acknowledges that it
4 created the paraeducator board to adopt standards of practice and
5 required school districts to provide to paraeducators a four-day
6 fundamental course of study on the standards to paraeducators. The
7 legislature finds that it required that at least one day of the
8 fundamental course of study be provided in person due to the benefits
9 of in-person instruction, including that instructors can confirm the
10 participant's application of learning objectives.

11 (2) The legislature recognizes that paraeducators benefit from
12 in-person training that is part of the hiring and onboarding process.
13 The legislature intends to expand this benefit by generally requiring
14 two days of the fundamental course of study be provided to
15 paraeducators in person. The legislature recognizes that an exemption
16 from this in-person requirement is necessary for some small school
17 districts that experience barriers to providing the fundamental
18 course of study in person due to long commute times for
19 paraeducators, irregular hiring dates in small school districts, and
20 other extenuating circumstances.

21 (3) However, it is the intent of the legislature to ensure that
22 all paraeducators in Washington receive high quality and consistent
23 professional development through the fundamental course of study,
24 with a significant majority of paraeducators being trained in person.

25 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.413
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1) By July 1, 2024, the board must update rules on the
28 implementation of the fundamental course of study under RCW
29 28A.413.060 to require that a significant majority of paraeducators
30 are provided with the course in person. Under the rules, the board
31 may grant an exemption from the in-person requirement of RCW

1 28A.413.060 for second-class school districts hiring paraeducators
2 after the beginning of the school year.

3 (2) By July 1, 2024, the board must publish guidance for school
4 districts on how to provide the fundamental course of study under RCW
5 28A.413.060 to improve the consistency and quality of staff
6 development.

7 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.413.060 and 2019 c 268 s 3 are each amended to
8 read as follows:

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

13 (2) (a) School districts must provide a four-day fundamental
14 course of study on the state standards of practice, as defined by the
15 board, to paraeducators who have not completed the course, either in
16 the district or in another district within the state. ~~((At least one
17 day of the fundamental course of study must be provided in person.))~~

18 (b) School districts must use best efforts to provide the
19 fundamental course of study before the paraeducator begins to work
20 with students and their families, and at a minimum by the following
21 deadlines ~~((provided in subsection (3) of this section.~~

22 ~~(3) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, school
23 districts must provide the fundamental course of study required in
24 subsection (2) of this section by the deadlines provided in (a) of
25 this subsection)):~~

26 ~~((a))~~ (i) For paraeducators hired ~~((on or~~) before ~~((September
27 1st))~~ the beginning of the school year, the first two days of the
28 fundamental course of study must be provided ~~((by September 30th of
29 that year))~~ in person before the beginning of the school year and the
30 second two days of the fundamental course of study must be provided
31 within six months of the date of hire ~~((, regardless of the size of
32 the district)); and~~

33 (ii) For paraeducators hired after ~~((September 1st))~~ the
34 beginning of the school year:

35 (A) For paraeducators hired by first-class districts ~~((with ten
36 thousand or more students)),~~ the first two days of the fundamental
37 course of study must be provided in person within four months of the
38 date of hire and the second two days of the fundamental course of

1 study must be provided within six months of the date of hire or by
2 September 1st of the following year, whichever is sooner; and

3 (B) For paraeducators hired by second-class districts (~~(with~~
4 ~~fewer than ten thousand students)~~), the four-day fundamental course
5 of study must be provided no later than September 1st of the
6 following year, with two of the days provided in person unless the
7 district has applied for and received an exemption under section 2 of
8 this act.

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

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

13 ~~(4))~~ (3) School districts may collaborate with other school
14 districts or educational service districts to meet the requirements
15 of this section."

16 Correct the title.

EFFECT: (1) Modifies deadlines, and in-person requirements, for
provision of the Fundamental Course of Study (FCS) for paraeducators,
such that:

(a) Paraeducators hired before the beginning of the school year
must be provided the first two days of the FCS in person before the
beginning of the school year and the second two days of the FCS
within six months of the date of hire;

(b) Paraeducators hired after the beginning of the school year:

(i) By school districts with 2,000 or more enrolled students,
must be provided the first two days of the FCS in person within four
months of the date of hire and the second two days of the FCS within
six months of the date of hire or by September 1st of the following
year, whichever is sooner;

(ii) By school districts with fewer than 2,000 enrolled students,
must be provided the FCS no later than September 1st of the following
year, with two of the days provided in person unless the district has
applied for and received an exemption from the Paraeducator Board;

(2) Authorizes the Paraeducator Board to grant exemptions from
the in-person requirements of the FCS for school districts with fewer
than 2,000 enrolled students hiring paraeducators after the beginning
of the school year;

(3) Removes the provision that grants the Paraeducator Board the
authority to grant exemptions from the in-person requirements of the
FCS for individual paraeducators under extenuating circumstances; and

(4) Modifies intent language.

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