

ESSB 5850 - H COMM AMD
By Committee on Education

NOT CONSIDERED 03/07/2024

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

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.310
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
6 specific purpose, each educational service district must work in
7 collaboration with the office of the superintendent of public
8 instruction to develop and maintain the capacity to offer training
9 and coaching for educators and other school district staff, including
10 those designated under RCW 28A.225.026 to address excessive
11 absenteeism and truancy, on the development of robust early warning
12 systems to identify and locate students who are chronically absent
13 and connect them with the necessary supports to reengage them in
14 academic learning. The training and coaching must include collecting,
15 analyzing, and reporting early warning data, including attendance and
16 other relevant data.

17 (2) For the purposes of this section:

18 (a) "Necessary supports" may include engagement with families;
19 academic, systemic, and economic supports; adequate and appropriate
20 clothing; food and nutrition; transportation; connecting students to
21 behavioral and physical health supports; and incentives and
22 celebrations of students' attendance and engagement in the classroom.

23 (b) "Students who are chronically absent" means students who miss
24 10 percent or more of their school days for any reason including
25 excused and unexcused absences and suspensions.

26 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.175.025 and 2007 c 408 s 2 are each amended to
27 read as follows:

28 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
29 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
30 instruction shall create a grant program and award grants to local
31 partnerships of schools, families, and communities (~~to begin the~~

1 ~~phase in of~~) for a statewide comprehensive dropout prevention,
2 intervention, and retrieval system including supports for students
3 who are chronically absent. This program shall be known as the
4 building bridges program.

5 ~~((1))~~ (2) For purposes of RCW 28A.175.025 through 28A.175.075,
6 a "building bridges program" means a local partnership of schools,
7 families, and communities that either provides the supports under
8 subsection (3) of this section or provides all of the following
9 programs or activities under this subsection, or both:

10 (a) A system that identifies individual students at risk of
11 dropping out from middle through high school based on local
12 predictive data, including state assessment data starting in the
13 fourth grade, and provides timely interventions for such students and
14 for dropouts (~~(, including a plan for educational success as already~~
15 ~~required by the student learning plan as defined under RCW~~
16 ~~28A.655.061)~~). Students identified shall include foster care youth,
17 youth involved in the juvenile justice system, and students receiving
18 special education services under chapter 28A.155 RCW;

19 (b) Coaches or mentors for students as necessary;

20 (c) Staff responsible for coordination of community partners that
21 provide a seamless continuum of academic and nonacademic support in
22 schools and communities;

23 (d) Retrieval or reentry activities; and

24 (e) Alternative educational programming, including, but not
25 limited to, career and technical education exploratory and
26 preparatory programs and online learning opportunities.

27 ~~((2) One of the grants awarded under this section shall be for a~~
28 ~~two-year demonstration project focusing on providing fifth through~~
29 ~~twelfth grade students with a program that utilizes technology and is~~
30 ~~integrated with state standards, basic academics, cross-cultural~~
31 ~~exposures, and age-appropriate preemployment training. The project~~
32 ~~shall:~~

33 ~~(a) Establish programs in two western Washington and one eastern~~
34 ~~Washington urban areas;~~

35 ~~(b) Identify at-risk students in each of the distinct communities~~
36 ~~and populations and implement strategies to close the achievement~~
37 ~~gap;~~

38 ~~(c) Collect and report data on participant characteristics and~~
39 ~~outcomes of the project, including the characteristics and outcomes~~
40 ~~specified under RCW 28A.175.035(1)(e); and~~

1 ~~(d) Submit a report to the legislature by December 1, 2009))~~

2 (3) When community-based organizations, tribes, and community and
3 technical colleges are awarded grants to support students who are
4 chronically absent under this section, grant funds may also be used
5 for the following strategies and supports:

6 (a) Proactive engagement with all families about the impact of
7 attendance on student outcomes;

8 (b) Clear, supportive, and solution-oriented communication with
9 families and caregivers of students who are chronically absent;

10 (c) Visits to families of students who are chronically absent;

11 (d) Academic, systemic, and economic supports for the families of
12 students who are chronically absent, including removing barriers to
13 students attending school as well as tutoring and mentoring students
14 who are reengaging in the classroom;

15 (e) Connecting students to behavioral and physical health
16 supports; and

17 (f) Incentives and celebrations of students' improved attendance
18 and engagement in the classroom.

19 (4) For the purposes of this section, "students who are
20 chronically absent" has the same meaning as in section 1 of this act.

21 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.175.035 and 2011 c 288 s 9 are each amended to
22 read as follows:

23 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall:

24 (a) Identify criteria for grants and evaluate proposals for
25 funding in consultation with the workforce training and education
26 coordinating board;

27 (b) Develop and monitor requirements for grant recipients to:

28 (i) Identify students who ~~((both fail the Washington assessment~~
29 ~~of student learning))~~ score below basic on the statewide student
30 assessment as defined in RCW 28A.655.230 and drop out of school;

31 (ii) Identify their own strengths and gaps in services provided
32 to youth;

33 (iii) Set their own local goals for program outcomes;

34 (iv) Use research-based and emerging best practices that lead to
35 positive outcomes in implementing the building bridges program; and

36 (v) Coordinate an outreach campaign to bring public and private
37 organizations together and to provide information about the building
38 bridges program to the local community;

1 (c) In setting the requirements under (b) of this subsection,
2 encourage creativity and provide for flexibility in implementing the
3 local building bridges program;

4 (d) Identify and disseminate successful practices; and

5 (e) Develop requirements for grant recipients to collect and
6 report data, including, but not limited to:

7 (i) The number of and demographics of students served including,
8 but not limited to, information regarding a student's race and
9 ethnicity, a student's household income, a student's housing status,
10 whether a student is a foster youth or youth involved in the juvenile
11 justice system, whether a student is disabled, and the primary
12 language spoken at a student's home;

13 (ii) (~~Washington assessment of student learning~~) Statewide
14 student assessment scores;

15 (iii) Dropout rates;

16 (iv) On-time graduation rates;

17 (v) Extended graduation rates;

18 (vi) Credentials obtained;

19 (vii) Absenteeism rates;

20 (viii) Truancy rates; and

21 (ix) Credit retrieval(~~;~~

22 ~~(f) Contract with a third party to evaluate the infrastructure~~
23 ~~and implementation of the partnership including the leveraging of~~
24 ~~outside resources that relate to the goal of the partnership. The~~
25 ~~third-party contractor shall also evaluate the performance and~~
26 ~~effectiveness of the partnerships relative to the type of entity, as~~
27 ~~identified in RCW 28A.175.045, serving as the lead agency for the~~
28 ~~partnership; and~~

29 ~~(g) Report to the legislature by December 1, 2008).~~

30 (2) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
31 require the recipient of grant funding under RCW 28A.175.025 to
32 report the impacts of the recipient's efforts in alignment with the
33 measures of the Washington school improvement framework.

34 (3) In performing its duties under this section, the office of
35 the superintendent of public instruction is encouraged to consult
36 with the (~~work group identified~~) graduation: a team effort
37 partnership advisory committee established in RCW 28A.175.075.

38 (~~(3)~~) (4) In selecting recipients for grant funds appropriated
39 under RCW 28A.175.135, the office of the superintendent of public
40 instruction shall use a streamlined and expedited application and

1 review process for those programs that have already proven to be
2 successful in dropout prevention.

3 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.175.105 and 2021 c 164 s 7 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 28A.175.100
6 through 28A.175.110 unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

7 (1) "Dropout reengagement program" means an educational program
8 that offers at least the following instruction and services:

9 (a) Academic instruction, including but not limited to
10 preparation to earn a high school equivalency certificate as provided
11 in RCW 28B.50.536 in accordance with rules adopted under RCW
12 28A.305.190, academic skills instruction, and college and work
13 readiness preparation, that generates credits that can be applied to
14 a high school diploma from the student's school district or from a
15 community or technical college under RCW 28B.50.535 and has the goal
16 of enabling the student to obtain the academic and work readiness
17 skills necessary for employment or postsecondary study. A dropout
18 reengagement program is not required to offer instruction in only
19 those subject areas where a student is deficient in accumulated
20 credits. Academic instruction must be provided by teachers certified
21 by the Washington professional educator standards board or by
22 instructors employed by a community or technical college whose
23 required credentials are established by the college;

24 (b) Case management, academic and career counseling, and
25 assistance with accessing services and resources that support at-risk
26 youth and reduce barriers to educational success, such as:

27 (i) Academic related supports, such as covering test fees,
28 calculators, and laboratory and other school supplies;

29 (ii) Nonacademic supports, such as adequate and appropriate
30 clothing; adequate and reliable access to food and nutrition; and
31 transportation, including bus passes, gas vouchers, and subsidized
32 parking; and

33 (iii) Connecting students to behavioral and physical health
34 supports; and

35 (c) If the program provider is a community or technical college,
36 the opportunity for qualified students to enroll in college courses
37 that lead to a postsecondary degree or certificate. The college may
38 not charge an eligible student tuition for such enrollment.

39 (2) "Eligible student" means a student who:

1 (a) Is at least sixteen but less than twenty-one years of age at
2 the beginning of the school year;

3 (b) Is not accumulating sufficient credits toward a high school
4 diploma to reasonably complete a high school diploma from a public
5 school before the age of twenty-one or is recommended for the program
6 by case managers from the department of social and health services or
7 the juvenile justice system; and

8 (c) Is enrolled or enrolls in the school district in which the
9 student resides, or is enrolled or enrolls in an institutional
10 education program as defined in RCW 28A.190.005 or a nonresident
11 school district under RCW 28A.225.220 through 28A.225.230.

12 (3) "Full-time equivalent eligible student" means an eligible
13 student whose enrollment and attendance meet criteria adopted by the
14 office of the superintendent of public instruction specifically for
15 dropout reengagement programs. The criteria shall be:

16 (a) Based on the community or technical college credits generated
17 by the student if the program provider is a community or technical
18 college; and

19 (b) Based on a minimum amount of planned programming or
20 instruction and minimum attendance by the student rather than hours
21 of seat time if the program provider is a community-based
22 organization.

23 **Sec. 5.** RCW 28A.175.110 and 2010 c 20 s 4 are each amended to
24 read as follows:

25 (1) The office of the superintendent of public instruction shall
26 develop a model interlocal agreement and a model contract for the
27 dropout reengagement system.

28 (2) The model interlocal agreement and contract shall, at a
29 minimum, address the following:

30 (a) Responsibilities for identification, referral, and enrollment
31 of eligible students;

32 (b) Instruction and services to be provided by a dropout
33 reengagement program, as specified under RCW 28A.175.105;

34 (c) Responsibilities for data collection and reporting, including
35 student transcripts and data required for the statewide student
36 information system;

37 (d) Administration of the high school statewide student
38 assessments;

1 (e) Uniform financial reimbursement rates per full-time
2 equivalent eligible student enrolled in a dropout reengagement
3 program, calculated and allocated as a statewide annual average of
4 the basic education allocations generated under RCW 28A.150.260 for
5 nonvocational students and including enhancements for vocational
6 students where eligible students are enrolled in vocational courses
7 in a program(~~(, and allowing for a uniform administrative fee to be~~
8 ~~retained by the district)) to be shared between the parties to the
9 interlocal agreement or contract, as agreed upon by the parties;~~

10 (f) Responsibilities for provision of special education or
11 related services for eligible students with disabilities who have an
12 individualized education program;

13 (g) Responsibilities for necessary accommodations and plans for
14 students qualifying under section 504 of the rehabilitation act of
15 1973;

16 (h) Minimum instructional staffing ratios for dropout
17 reengagement programs offered by community-based organizations, which
18 are not required to be the same as for other basic education programs
19 in school districts; and

20 (i) Performance measures that must be reported to the office of
21 the superintendent of public instruction in a common format for
22 purposes of accountability, including longitudinal monitoring of
23 student progress and postsecondary education and employment.

24 (3) Eligible students enrolled in a dropout reengagement program
25 under RCW 28A.175.100, 28A.175.105, and this section are considered
26 regularly enrolled students of the school district in which they are
27 enrolled, except that the students shall not be included in the
28 school district's enrollment for purposes of calculating compliance
29 with RCW 28A.150.100."

30 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Modifies the dropout reengagement program model
interlocal agreement and model contract requirements by allowing
reimbursement rates per full-time equivalent eligible student
enrolled in a program to be shared between the parties to the
interlocal agreement or contract, as agreed upon by the parties,
rather than providing for a uniform administrative fee to be retained
by the school district.

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