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## Appropriations Committee

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### 2SSB 5882

**Brief Description:** Increasing prototypical school staffing to better meet student needs.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Stanford, Wellman, Hunt, Pedersen, Wilson, C., Conway, Hasegawa, Kuderer, Nobles, Salomon, Shewmake, Valdez and Van De Wege).

**Brief Summary of Second Substitute Bill**

- Increases staff allocations for teaching assistants, office support staff, and noninstructional aides in the prototypical school funding model.

**Hearing Date:** 2/15/24

**Staff:** James Mackison (786-7104).

**Background:**

Prototypical School Funding Model Allocations.

The prototypical school funding model allocates general apportionment funding to school districts based on assumed levels of staff and other resources necessary to support "prototypical" elementary, middle, and high schools. These prototypical schools are assumed to have the following full-time student enrollments: 400 students for elementary school, 432 students for middle school, and 600 students for high school. In addition to other allocations, for each prototypical school, the model includes minimum allocations for the following types of staff:

Staff Type	Elementary	Middle	High
Teaching assistance, including any aspect of educational instructional services provided by classified employees	0.936	0.700	0.652

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

Office support and other noninstructional aides	2.012	2.325	3.269
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Discretionary Spending of Allocations.

Subject to some limits, the funding provided to school districts through the prototypical school funding model is for allocation purposes only. This means that school districts have discretion over spending decisions and can, for example, use funding allocated for aides to hire teachers, to purchase technology, or on other costs. However, there are exceptions to this discretionary spending allowance, including that funding for average kindergarten through grade 3 (K-3) class sizes may be provided only to the extent of and proportionate to the school districts' demonstrated actual class size in grades K-3, up to the funded class sizes.

Additional Allocations Specified for School Staff.

In addition to the staffing units funded through the prototypical school funding model, certain additional staffing units are specified in statute. These additional staffing units are not allocated until they are specifically appropriated and designated for those staff in the omnibus operating appropriations act. These are additional units specified for the following types of staff:

Staff Type	Elementary	Middle	High
Teaching assistance, including any aspect of educational instructional services provided by classified employees	1.0640	0.3000	0.3480
Office support and other noninstructional aides	0.9880	1.1750	0.2310

**Summary of Bill:**

The "teaching assistance" staff type is renamed to "paraeducators." The minimum allocations in the prototypical school funding model for paraeducators, office support staff, and noninstructional aides are increased from the current ratios to the following amounts beginning in the 2024-25 school year:

School Year	Staff Type	Elementary	Middle	High
For the 2024-25 school year:	Paraeducators, including any aspect of educational instructional services provided by classified employees	1.054	0.817	0.769
	Office support and other noninstructional aides	2.130	2.442	3.386

The Superintendent of Public Instruction must establish rules requiring the additional funding provided under the bill to be used to support increased staffing, layoff prevention, or increased salaries for paraeducators, office support, and noninstructional aides.

The additional allocations specified in statute beyond the prototypical formula for paraeducators,

office support, and other noninstructional aides are removed.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains multiple effective dates. Please see the bill.