

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5248

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As of January 24, 2023

**Title:** An act relating to using COVID-19 relief funding on high quality tutoring and rigorous extended learning programs.

**Brief Description:** Using COVID-19 relief funding on high quality tutoring and rigorous extended learning programs.

**Sponsors:** Senators Braun, Mullet, Dozier, Keiser, Shewmake, Torres, Wagoner, Wellman and Wilson, L..

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/26/23.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Reappropriates COVID-19 relief funding for grants to be used on targeted high-quality tutoring and rigorous extended learning programs.
- Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a state-matching grant program when school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools choose to spend COVID-19 relief funding on tutoring and extended learning programs.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

**Staff:** Ailey Kato (786-7434)

**Background:** Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction Grants. The 2021-23 operating budget appropriated \$27 million state funding and \$172 million in federal COVID-19 relief funding for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to administer grants for the purposes of learning recovery and acceleration. Allowable uses were limited to one-time contracts, professional learning, procuring assessment or data

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systems, and direct supports to students. It is assumed that \$46.5 million will need to be reappropriated in the 2023-25 biennium.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funding. Washington State received a total of \$1.7 billion in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III funding with 90 percent of this amount going directly to school districts through a formula. Currently, \$1 billion of this funding has not been used. The deadline for claiming this funding is September 2024.

State education agencies and state legislatures may not limit the use of the ESSER formula funds to school districts. However, states may encourage school districts to dedicate funding toward learning recovery programs, and not less than 20 percent of school district's ESSER III allocation must address the academic impact of lost instruction time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions.

**Summary of Bill:** Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction Grants. OSPI must administer grants for the purposes of learning recovery and acceleration. Allowable uses of the funds are limited to targeted high quality tutoring and rigorous extended learning programs.

The sum of \$46,570,000 is appropriated for the 2023-25 fiscal biennium from the ESSER III Federal Account to OSPI for these grants.

State-Matching Grants. Subject to appropriations, OSPI must establish the state-matching grant program for learning recovery and acceleration. The purpose of the grant program is to provide state-matching funds to schools and school districts that choose to use allocations from the ESSER III Federal Account on targeted high quality tutoring and rigorous extended learning programs.

The amount of state matching funds shall be 50 percent of the amount schools and school districts use on high quality tutoring and rigorous extended learning programs in the 2023-24 school year.

School districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools may apply for the state-matching funds.

Funding priority shall be given to schools and school districts that have the lowest percentage of students meeting grade level standards as measured by the English language arts and mathematics results of the Smarter Balanced assessment or any other statewide student assessment.

OSPI may adopt rules for this grant program.

All provisions expire December 31, 2024.

**Appropriation:** The bill contains an appropriation totaling \$46,570,000 from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief III federal account. This bill contains a section to limit implementation to the availability of amounts appropriated for that specific purpose.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 17, 2023.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.