

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5882

As of January 8, 2024

Title: An act relating to increasing prototypical school staffing to better meet student needs.

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

Sponsors: Senators Stanford, Wellman, Hunt, Pedersen and Wilson, C..

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/10/24.

Brief Summary of Bill

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Alex Fairfortune (786-7416)

Background: Prototypical School Model. The state's public school funding model allocates funding to school districts based on assumed levels of staff and other resources necessary to support a prototypical school serving an assumed number of students at defined elementary, middle, and high schools levels. The use of prototypical schools is intended to illustrate the level of resources needed to operate a school of a particular size using commonly understood terms such as class size, hours of instruction, and specified staff positions.

The structure of the formula, which appears in statute, provides allocations for classroom teachers at an assumed class size, plus other building-level staff. Based on these staffing ratios, the state uses salary assumptions for each of the different staff types to generate state funding allocations. The funding provided to school districts through the prototypical

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school formulas is for allocation purposes only, and districts have discretion over how the money is spent, subject to some limits.

The staffing ratios for teaching assistants, office supports, and noninstructional aides are as follows:

	Elementary	Middle	High
Teaching assistance, including any aspect of educational instructional services provided by classified employees	0.936	0.700	0.652
Office support and other noninstructional aides	2.012	2.325	3.269

Summary of Bill: The staffing ratios for teaching assistants, office supports, and noninstructional aides are increased to the following amounts for the 2024-25 school year:

	Elementary	Middle	High
Teaching assistance, including any aspect of educational instructional services provided by classified employees	1.292	0.800	0.768
Office support and other noninstructional aides	2.342	2.716	4.039

The staffing ratios for teaching assistants, office supports, and noninstructional aides are increased to the following amounts for the 2025-26 school year:

	Elementary	Middle	High
Teaching assistance, including any aspect of educational instructional services provided by classified employees	1.648	0.900	0.884

Office support and other noninstructional aides	2.672	3.107	4.809
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Beginning in the 2026-27 school year and beyond, the staffing ratios for teaching assistants, office supports, and noninstructional aides are changed to the following amounts:

	Elementary	Middle	High
Teaching assistance, including any aspect of educational instructional services provided by classified employees	2.00	1.00	1.00
Office support and other noninstructional aides	3.00	3.50	3.50

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 2, 2024.

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

Effective Date: The bill contains several effective dates. Please refer to the bill.