
HOUSE BILL 2398

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Walsh, Couture, Eslick, and Jacobsen

Read first time 01/16/24. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring parent representation on
2 instructional materials committees; amending RCW 28A.320.230; and
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that parents are the
6 primary stakeholders in the upbringing of their children. In order to
7 support and encourage that good upbringing, parental involvement is
8 essential. The legislature intends to make it easier for parents and
9 immediate family members to be involved directly and actively in what
10 their children learn and read at school.

11 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.320.230 and 1989 c 371 s 1 are each amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Every board of directors, unless otherwise specifically provided
14 by law, shall:

15 (1) Prepare, negotiate, set forth in writing and adopt, policy
16 relative to the selection or deletion of instructional materials.
17 Such policy shall:

18 (a) State the school district's goals and principles relative to
19 instructional materials;

1 (b) Delegate responsibility for the preparation and
2 recommendation of teachers' reading lists and specify the procedures
3 to be followed in the selection of all instructional materials
4 including text books;

5 (c) (i) Establish an instructional materials committee to be
6 appointed, with the approval of the school board, by the school
7 district's chief administrative officer. This committee shall consist
8 of ~~((representative))~~: (A) Representative members of the district's
9 professional staff, including representation from the district's
10 curriculum development committees ~~((, and, in))~~; (B) parents of
11 students in a number equaling less than one-half of the total
12 membership of the committee; and (C) in the case of districts which
13 operate elementary school(s) only, the educational service district
14 superintendent, one of whose responsibilities shall be to assure the
15 correlation of those elementary district adoptions with those of the
16 high school district(s) which serve their children. ~~((The committee~~
17 ~~may include parents at the school board's discretion: PROVIDED, That~~
18 ~~parent members shall make up less than one-half of the total~~
19 ~~membership of the committee))~~

20 (ii) School districts with fewer than 2,000 enrolled students
21 that are unable to recruit parents to serve on an instructional
22 materials committee are exempt from (c) (i) (B) of this subsection;

23 (d) Provide for reasonable notice to parents of the opportunity
24 to serve on the committee and for terms of office for members of the
25 instructional materials committee;

26 (e) Provide a system for receiving, considering and acting upon
27 written complaints regarding instructional materials used by the
28 school district;

29 (f) Provide free text books, supplies and other instructional
30 materials to be loaned to the pupils of the school, when, in its
31 judgment, the best interests of the district will be subserved
32 thereby and prescribe rules and regulations to preserve such books,
33 supplies and other instructional materials from unnecessary damage.

34 Recommendation of instructional materials shall be by the
35 district's instructional materials committee in accordance with
36 district policy. Approval or disapproval shall be by the local school
37 district's board of directors.

38 Districts may pay the necessary travel and subsistence expenses
39 for expert counsel from outside the district. In addition, the

1 committee's expenses incidental to visits to observe other districts'
2 selection procedures may be reimbursed by the school district.

3 Districts may, within limitations stated in board policy, use and
4 experiment with instructional materials for a period of time before
5 general adoption is formalized.

6 Within the limitations of board policy, a school district's chief
7 administrator may purchase instructional materials to meet deviant
8 needs or rapidly changing circumstances.

9 (2) Establish a depreciation scale for determining the value of
10 texts which students wish to purchase.

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