
SENATE BILL 6049

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Senators Braun, Dozier, and Short

Read first time 01/09/24. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting students' learning recovery with
2 high quality tutoring, rigorous extended learning programs, and
3 summer school programs; adding a new section to chapter 28A.630 RCW;
4 creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature understands that many
7 students suffered learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
8 The legislature acknowledges that average math and English language
9 arts test scores were lower in 2022 than before the pandemic and that
10 the largest declines were in middle school grades.

11 (2) The legislature also recognizes that the Washington state
12 institute for public policy published a report on student achievement
13 and the pandemic. In that report, the institute estimated that test
14 scores fell 0.20 standard deviations in 2022, which is associated
15 with a \$32,000 decrease in future earnings per student. The report
16 further explained that the pandemic contributed to educational
17 inequalities because some student populations were affected more than
18 others. The report stated that low-income students, students of
19 color, and students with disabilities experienced larger decreases in
20 test scores compared to their economically advantaged, nondisabled,
21 and white peers.

1 (3) The Washington state institute for public policy's report
2 specified that interventions like tutoring, summer school programs,
3 and double-dose classes may offset the decline in test scores. A
4 double-dose class is a practice in which middle or high school
5 students who struggle in math or reading enroll in multiple math or
6 reading classes to increase their instructional time with the
7 subject.

8 (4) The legislature intends to establish a grant program to help
9 schools provide the effective interventions of high quality tutoring,
10 rigorous extended learning programs, and summer school programs for
11 students with the greatest learning recovery needs.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.630
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
15 specific purpose, the office of the superintendent of public
16 instruction shall establish the learning recovery grant program.

17 (2) The purpose of the grant program is to provide funding for
18 schools and school districts to support students experiencing
19 learning loss as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Grant funds may
20 only be used for the following interventions: (a) High quality
21 tutoring for math and English language arts; (b) rigorous extended
22 learning programs including double-dose classes; and (c) summer
23 school programs.

24 (3)(a) School districts, charter schools, and state-tribal
25 education compact schools that serve students in grades six through
26 12 may apply for these grants.

27 (b) Funding priority shall be given to applicants with the
28 highest numbers of low-income students, students of color, and
29 students with disabilities and who have the greatest learning
30 recovery needs.

31 (4) Schools and school districts that receive grant funds must
32 notify parents and guardians of their students' access to these
33 interventions to promote student and family engagement.

34 (5) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
35 adopt rules for the grant program established under this section.

36 (6) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
37 report on the outcomes of the grant program established under this
38 section by November 1, 2025, and November 1, 2026. Reports must

1 include how the grant funding was used, student demographics, and the
2 impact on math and English language arts test scores.

3 (7) For the purposes of this section:

4 (a) "Rigorous extended learning programs" means programs
5 incorporating features that research has shown as most effective for
6 student learning recovery, which include: (i) High quality curriculum
7 aligned with content from the regular school day and lesson plans
8 that include options for individualized instruction; (ii) preservice
9 and ongoing training, and one-to-one coaching for extended learning
10 instructors; (iii) extra instruction time during the regular school
11 year, school breaks, or the summer, and strategies such as double-
12 dose classes or mandatory summer school programs; (iv) opportunities
13 for students to attend at least 44 to 100 hours; and (v) the use of
14 certificated staff, paraeducators, and trained volunteers.

15 (b) "High quality tutoring" means programs that: (i) Use
16 certificated staff, paraeducators, or trained volunteers; (ii) have
17 small student to teacher ratios; (iii) are ongoing throughout the
18 school year and occur at least three times a week during the school
19 day; (iv) use data to identify students most in need of support and
20 monitor students' progress; and (v) assess program effectiveness.

21 (8) This section expires December 31, 2026.

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