

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5772

As of February 24, 2025

Title: An act relating to calculating student enrollment for local effort assistance.

Brief Description: Calculating student enrollment for local effort assistance.

Sponsors: Senators Hansen and Valdez.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Ways & Means: 2/26/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Limits the enrollment used to calculate Local Effort Assistance funding to a proportion of a district's total enrollment when the Alternative Learning Experience enrollment exceeds a specific percentage.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

Staff: Kayla Hammer (786-7305)

Background: Local Effort Assistance. The state provides additional Local Effort Assistance (LEA) funding to school districts that would not generate an enrichment levy of at least \$1,550 per student based on prior year enrollment when levying at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. An eligible school district's maximum LEA is the difference between the district's per-pupil levy amount based on a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value and \$1,550 per student multiplied by the district's prior year enrollment. The \$1,550 per-student limit, also known as the state LEA threshold, is adjusted annually by the Seattle Consumer Price Index (CPI)—estimated at \$1,949.11 in 2024. State tribal compact schools receive the LEA equal to the previous year's per-student enrichment levy for the school district in which the school is located up to \$1,550 per pupil adjusted by the Seattle CPI.

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.

Alternative Learning Experience. The Alternative Learning Experiences (ALE) Program is a funding and instructional model for providing basic education where some or all of the coursework instruction takes place independent from the regular classroom setting or schedule. ALE is available to all public-school districts and public charter schools in Washington State, and may range in scope and scale from a single course to a full-time designated school site. However, all ALE courses must be provided in accordance with a written student learning plan (WSLP) and be supervised, monitored, assessed, evaluated, and documented by a certificated teacher.

Reporting Student Enrollment. Student full-time equivalency (FTE) for ALE is based on the estimated weekly hours of learning in the WSLP. In order for a student to be claimed for 1.0 ALE FTE, the WSLP must show that a student is engaged in learning activities to complete their learning goals and performance objectives for at least 27.75 hours per week.

The total monthly enrollment claim for a student may not exceed 1.0 FTE. If a student takes both ALE and non-ALE courses, the reported FTE for that student is split between ALE FTE and non-ALE FTE. If the combined FTE exceeds 1.0, the district must determine which FTE to claim first.

Funding Rate and Allocations. ALE is funded based on the Running Start nonvocational rate, which is the statewide average rate for students in grades 9-12. This funding rate is the same regardless of the ALE course type. The Running Start rate may be more or less than a district's prototypical funding rate for its non-ALE enrollment. Because of these rate differences, a district may find that claiming ALE enrollment first is more or less beneficial.

Allocation of the generated state funding is a local decision, and there is no state requirement that ALE funds go to the ALE Program.

Summary of Bill: If a school district's total ALE Program enrollment is greater than 33 percent of the total enrollment, the enrollment amount used for calculating LEA must be reduced.

If a school district's ALE enrollment exceeds 33 percent of the school district's FTE enrollment, then 33 percent of the district's enrollment must be excluded from the student enrollment count for purposes of calculating LEA funding.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 24, 2025.

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

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