
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5235

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By Senators Wellman, Harris, Nobles, Saldaña, and C. Wilson

Read first time 01/14/25. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to repealing and reorganizing outdated statutes
2 concerning public schools; amending RCW 28A.175.145 and 28A.235.120;
3 adding a new section to chapter 28A.235 RCW; recodifying RCW
4 28A.623.030; and repealing RCW 28A.335.300, 28A.415.315, 28A.415.330,
5 28A.415.380, 28A.600.045, 28A.605.040, 28A.623.005, 28A.623.010,
6 28A.623.020, 28A.625.100, 28A.625.110, 28A.625.150, 28A.630.198,
7 28A.630.810, 28A.655.071, 28A.655.130, and 28A.655.280.

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

9 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.175.145 and 2022 c 75 s 2 are each amended to
10 read as follows:

11 (1)(a) Subject to funds appropriated for this purpose or
12 otherwise available in the account established in RCW 28A.175.155,
13 beginning in the 2011-12 school year and each year thereafter, a high
14 school that demonstrates improvement in its dropout prevention score
15 compared to the baseline school year as calculated under RCW
16 28A.175.140 may receive a PASS program award as provided under this
17 section. The legislature intends to recognize and reward continuous
18 improvement by using a baseline year for calculating eligibility for
19 PASS program awards so that a high school retains previously earned
20 award funds from one year to the next unless its performance
21 declines.

1 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction must
2 determine the amount of PASS program awards based on appropriated
3 funds and eligible high schools. The intent of the legislature is to
4 provide an award to each eligible high school commensurate with the
5 degree of improvement in the high school's dropout prevention score
6 and the size of the high school. The office must establish a minimum
7 award amount. If funds available for PASS program awards are not
8 sufficient to provide an award to each eligible high school, the
9 office of the superintendent of public instruction shall establish
10 objective criteria to prioritize awards based on eligible high
11 schools with the greatest need for additional dropout prevention and
12 intervention services. The office of the superintendent of public
13 instruction shall encourage and may require a high school receiving a
14 PASS program award to demonstrate an amount of community matching
15 funds or an amount of in-kind community services to support dropout
16 prevention and intervention.

17 (c) Ninety percent of an award under this section must be
18 allocated to the eligible high school to be used for dropout
19 prevention activities in the school as specified in subsection (2) of
20 this section. The principal of the high school shall determine the
21 use of funds after consultation with parents and certificated and
22 classified staff of the school.

23 (d) Ten percent of an award under this section must be allocated
24 to the school district in which the eligible high school is located
25 to be used for dropout prevention activities as specified in
26 subsection (2) of this section in the high school or in other schools
27 in the district.

28 (e) The office of the superintendent of public instruction may
29 withhold distribution of award funds under this section to an
30 otherwise eligible high school or school district if the
31 superintendent of public instruction issues a finding that the school
32 or school district has willfully manipulated the dropout prevention
33 indicators under RCW 28A.175.140, for example by expelling,
34 suspending, transferring, or refusing to enroll students at risk of
35 dropping out of school or at risk of low achievement.

36 (2) High schools and school districts may use PASS program award
37 funds for any programs or activities that support the development of
38 a dropout prevention, intervention, and reengagement system as
39 described in RCW 28A.175.074, offered directly by the school or
40 school district or under contract with education agencies or

1 community-based organizations, including but not limited to
2 educational service districts and workforce development councils.
3 Such programs or activities may include but are not limited to the
4 following:

5 (a) Strategies to close the educational opportunity and
6 achievement gaps among groups of students as disaggregated by the
7 categories and subcategories in RCW 28A.300.042 (1) and (3);

8 (b) Use of graduation coaches as defined in RCW 28A.175.150;

9 (c) Opportunity internship activities under RCW 28C.18.164;

10 (d) Dropout reengagement programs provided by community-based
11 organizations or community and technical colleges;

12 (e) ~~((Comprehensive guidance and planning programs as defined~~
13 ~~under RCW 28A.600.045, including but not limited to the navigation~~
14 ~~101 program)) Developing and updating high school and beyond plans~~
15 under RCW 28A.230.212;

16 (f) Reduced class sizes, extended school day, extended school
17 year, and tutoring programs for students identified as at risk of
18 dropping out of school, including instruction to assist these
19 students in meeting graduation requirements in mathematics and
20 science;

21 (g) Outreach and counseling targeted to students identified as at
22 risk of dropping out of school, or who have dropped out of school, to
23 encourage them to consider learning alternatives such as
24 preapprenticeship programs, skill centers, running start, technical
25 high schools, and other options for completing a high school diploma;

26 (h) Preapprenticeship programs under RCW 49.04.190;

27 (i) Mentoring programs for students;

28 (j) Development and use of dropout early warning data systems;

29 (k) Counseling, resource and referral services, and intervention
30 programs to address social, behavioral, and health factors associated
31 with dropping out of school;

32 (l) Implementing programs for in-school suspension or other
33 strategies to avoid excluding middle and high school students from
34 the school whenever possible;

35 (m) Parent engagement activities such as home visits and off-
36 campus parent support group meetings related to dropout prevention
37 and reengagement; and

38 (n) Early learning programs for prekindergarten students.

39 (3) High schools and school districts are encouraged to implement
40 dropout prevention and reengagement strategies in a comprehensive and

1 systematic manner, using strategic planning, school improvement
2 plans, evaluation and feedback, and response to intervention tools.

3 **Sec. 2.** RCW 28A.235.120 and 2002 c 36 s 1 are each amended to
4 read as follows:

5 The directors of any school district may establish, equip and
6 operate meal programs in school buildings for pupils; certificated
7 and classified employees; volunteers; public agencies, political
8 subdivisions, or associations that serve public entities while using
9 school facilities; other local, state, or federal child nutrition
10 programs; and for school or employee functions: PROVIDED, That the
11 expenditures for food supplies shall not exceed the estimated
12 revenues from the sale of meals, federal aid, Indian education fund
13 lunch aid, or other anticipated revenue, including donations, to be
14 received for that purpose: (~~PROVIDED FURTHER, That the directors of~~
15 ~~any school district may provide for the use of kitchens and~~
16 ~~lunchrooms or other facilities in school buildings to furnish meals~~
17 ~~to elderly persons at cost as provided in RCW 28A.623.020:))
18 PROVIDED, FURTHER, That the directors of any school district may
19 provide for the use of kitchens and lunchrooms or other facilities in
20 school buildings to furnish meals at cost as provided in RCW
21 28A.623.030 (as recodified by this act) to children who are
22 participating in educational or training or care programs or
23 activities conducted by private, nonprofit organizations and entities
24 and to students who are attending private elementary and secondary
25 schools. Operation for the purposes of this section shall include the
26 employment and discharge for sufficient cause of personnel necessary
27 for preparation of food or supervision of students during lunch
28 periods and fixing their compensation, payable from the district
29 general fund, or entering into agreement with a private agency for
30 the establishment, management and/or operation of a food service
31 program or any part thereof.~~

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.623.030 is recodified as a section
33 in chapter 28A.235 RCW.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The following acts or parts of acts are
35 each repealed:

36 (1) RCW 28A.335.300 (Playground matting) and 2015 c 225 s 27 &
37 1991 c 297 s 18;

1 (2) RCW 28A.415.315 (Classified instructional assistants—
2 Training) and 2009 c 539 s 2 & 2008 c 65 s 2;
3 (3) RCW 28A.415.330 (Professional development institutes—Managing
4 disruptive students) and 1999 c 166 s 2;
5 (4) RCW 28A.415.380 (Mathematics and science instructional coach
6 program—Evaluation—Reports) and 2009 c 578 s 1 & 2007 c 396 s 4;
7 (5) RCW 28A.600.045 (Comprehensive guidance and planning programs
8 for students) and 2008 c 170 s 303 & 2006 c 117 s 2;
9 (6) RCW 28A.605.040 (Family, school, and community partnerships—
10 School building spaces) and 2010 c 235 s 701;
11 (7) RCW 28A.623.005 (Condensed compliance reports—Second-class
12 districts) and 2011 c 45 s 47;
13 (8) RCW 28A.623.010 (Nonprofit program for elderly—Purpose) and
14 1990 c 33 s 511 & 1973 c 107 s 1;
15 (9) RCW 28A.623.020 (Nonprofit program for elderly—Authorized—
16 Restrictions) and 1990 c 33 s 512 & 1973 c 107 s 3;
17 (10) RCW 28A.625.100 (Board of directors of a school district may
18 establish) and 1986 c 143 s 1;
19 (11) RCW 28A.625.110 (Awards) and 1990 c 33 s 519, 1987 1st ex.s.
20 c 2 s 207, & 1986 c 143 s 2;
21 (12) RCW 28A.625.150 (Award program) and 1990 c 33 s 520, 1987
22 1st ex.s. c 2 s 210, & 1985 c 399 s 2;
23 (13) RCW 28A.630.198 (Teacher preparation programs—Report) and
24 2019 c 295 s 204;
25 (14) RCW 28A.630.810 (Rules) and 1989 c 233 s 17;
26 (15) RCW 28A.655.071 (Revised essential academic learning
27 requirements—Legislative review—Implementation) and 2010 c 235 s
28 601;
29 (16) RCW 28A.655.130 (Accountability implementation funds) and
30 1999 c 388 s 402; and
31 (17) RCW 28A.655.280 (Applicability of certificates of individual
32 achievement and assessments) and 2019 c 252 s 401.

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